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# SEMILASSO

IN

# AFRICA.

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# SEMILASSO IN AFRICA.

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# ADVENTURES IN ALGIERS,

AND

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ac

OTHER PARTS OF AFRICA.

BY PRINCE PÜCKLER MUSKAU,

AUTHOR OF

"THE TOUR OF A GERMAN PRINCE."

IN THREE VOLUMES.

VOL. III.

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# ADVENTURES

IN

# AFRICA.

## CONCLUSION.

The Sauwan—Zugar—The Great Desert—Sfax—El Gem—Hydrah—Keff—Tunga—Travelling adventures among the Bedouins.

TOWARDS four o'clock we rode out of our cavern, pausing a few moments on the hill, to take a last farewell of the characteristic view. It was thoroughly African. A scorching atmosphere, a wide endless plain, burnt completely yellow, scattered over with ruins, closed in by rugged mountains; not a single tree to be seen, with the solitary exception of a distant olive-grove, not green, however, but of a pale grey;—while a dusky glittering haze spread over the whole, in which the distant outline became indistinct. Myriads of flies continued to buzz about us, and urge our worried animals to a more rapid pace; in this my mule particularly

distinguished itself, the horses keeping up with its amble only in a smart trot. Soon, however, the country became more hilly, the air cooler, and all nature assumed a different character: trees did not indeed appear; but the earth became covered with close fresh evergreens, myrtles, flowering rosemary; while between them purling brooks hurried down the mountain side. The bed of these brooks, instead of willows as with us, was here generally enclosed by oleander, now in its highest glory. Many other variegated flowers that love a moist soil were also to be seen.

Towards evening, as we were just winding out of a valley, we were suddenly surprised by the view of the magnificent Sauwan, which seemed as if close before us, with the white city of the same name reclining at its foot, and surrounded by a dark forest of various kinds of trees: at the same time we met a long procession of negroes, on their way from the interior to be sold at Tunis. They went quite freely, escorted only by two Moors; one camel bore their limited baggage, and they seemed all in spirits, —at least most of them laughed heartily, particularly the women, at the sight of my quizzing-glass, at which they pointed with their fingers, displaying at the same time the most beautifully white teeth. Neither the men nor

the women were handsome, — even the children were ugly, and one old woman in particular was quite awful. The slaves are treated so kindly at Tunis, that it is absurd to pity them; for they are infinitely better off than thousands of labourers and servants with us.

The nearer you approach the town, the more pleasingly the mountain scenery develops itself, and it may truly be called the Switzerland of Tunis. I believed myself for a while transported to that picturesque country. The paved road was enclosed on both sides by two rapid mountain streams, which overflowed it in many parts, and behind them rose a wall of lofty silver poplars, chesnut-trees, nut-trees, maples, with briers entwined with flowering shrubs, so closely matted together, that the sable head of the mountain giant was only seen at intervals peering over all his neighbours. The dense foliage of the fig-tree, and here and there a flowering oleander between the thorns, were scarcely looked upon as exotics; but when we had passed the road winding between the trees, all remembrance of home vanished, though the contrast was certainly not disagreeable. The waving branches of three haughty palm-trees were rocking in the wind at our side; on the slope of a hill, rose the cemetery garnished

with turbans; and before us we beheld the antique gate of the city, which still serves the modern Sauwan for the same purpose. The ram's head, with the word *auxilio* to be read still distinctly over it, sufficiently proved that Zeugitana had once been consecrated to Jupiter Ammon; and its celebrated mountain has probably given a name to the whole province. To the north of this the Africa of the ancients, properly speaking, commenced; and from the summit of the Mons Ziguensis or Zengis, the loftiest in the present kingdom of Tunis, Agathocles, as we are told by Diodorus Siculus, beheld at one view the country of the Andrumetini and that of the Carthaginians. I was delighted with the hope of enjoying the same view myself, in the course of a few days.

I was received with much deference, and with at least apparent cordiality, by two Shechs of the town; by the former, who had been deposed by the late Bey, on account of ill treatment shown to Count Philippi, the Sardinian consul, when like myself travelling into the interior; and also by the new one, the nephew of the former. I was conducted into very good quarters, those usually occupied by the Sapatapa when he visits this neighbourhood: my servant and the Mamaluk, whom I had sent

on before me, had already got every thing into order for my reception. Shortly afterwards, a repast was served up comprising at least a dozen national dishes, enough to have satisfied twenty men, and prepared in a very savoury manner. If the critics had not reproached me so often with dwelling too much upon bills of fare, I would have delighted you with a long dissertation on Moorish cookery. Let epicures vent their anger, at being deprived of this, on the aforesaid critics; for I must submit, though with a mental reservation to set them at defiance whenever the temptation becomes too strong.

On the following day I visited the ruins of the Roman temple, under which rise those rich springs, which the hand of man once compelled to pass over valleys and under mountains towards Carthage. I do not believe that there is in the north of Africa any thing more delightful or luxuriant, than the view from the road between the city and these ruins. A grove of lofty trees mingles beautifully with richly laden fruit-trees, crimson flowering pomegranates, white jasmines of almost overpowering perfume, blue rope-weed, and every where masses of oleander, from among the pink blossoms of which the black cypress rises like an obelisk. Some of these are the size of an average

Lombardy poplar, and even the nut-trees are little inferior in compass to those on the mountains of southern Germany. Ripe cherries, juicy mulberries, and almonds in their green velvet shells, hung at times immediately before our lips over the narrow path, and we frequently indulged ourselves in an act of robbery not prohibited here. On all sides mountain brooks came rushing by the road; and, frequently crossing it, formed here and there little water-falls, which farther down served to turn occasional mills. The Shech called our attention to one of these streams, which is necessary to the genuine colouring of the red Fez or Scheschia, of which the head-dress throughout nearly the whole of the Levant is composed. It affords at the same time most exquisite water for drinking,—an enjoyment with which one is apt to indulge to excess here, since in Tunis nothing but insipid cistern-water is to be had.

Of the temple, which seems to be peculiar in its architecture, and doubtless dates from the time of the middle emperors, only the outer walls are now standing, forming a semicircle round an open and tolerably large space. On the north-western side, this court formed by the temple was open, and presented a terrace, from

which descended right and left two flights of steps, still in a tolerable state of preservation. Between these, lower down, was situated a large basin, where all the springs united, to be received by the airy arches, a few remains of which may still be traced in the gardens covering the valley. Round the temple, towards the interior, are seen niches, in which, within a few years, some statues are said to have stood; and several minor articles of antiquity have been found here. I myself purchased of a Jew three engraved stones, one not quite finished, but all of no mean workmanship, for the trifling sum of five piasters.

After we had sufficiently contemplated the ruins, we attempted to climb somewhat higher up the same side of the mountain, the view beginning to develop itself in a manner calculated to raise our expectations very highly. We were, however, ill rewarded for our pains; for perpendicular rocks opposed us in every direction, and masked the greater part: added to this, we had to dread an approaching thunderstorm, with an extremely disagreeable shower of rain; for the rain here, though it is seldom of long duration, wets one through immediately, the drops falling usually of the size of large hazelnuts, and soon occasioning dangerous colds, if

the sun be not at hand to dry one again without loss of time. I however would not allow myself to be deterred; and after we had got down, I made an attempt in another direction, where we soon discovered a ravine, which led us up by a far more convenient and exceedingly picturesque path. We met with a singularly shaped rock, several thousand paces long, exactly in the form of an immense tumulus, curiously veined with dark green and red lines. I jestingly said to the Shech who was riding near me, that this was the grave of an old giant, who had lived here in the times of paganism; and scarcely had my dragoman interpreted the words to him, when a violent clap of thunder rolled over us, and at the same moment a wild boar sprung from behind the rock, the whole of our suite immediately starting after him with loud acclamations, and a number of Jew and Arab lads from the town joining the chase on foot. As no time was to be lost, (for the sun was already sinking,) I pursued my upward course, accompanied by my secretary and the Shech, to obtain, if possible, a view of the country beyond. A few minutes afterwards we again caught sight of the game, which had escaped the hunters, but was bleeding profusely from a wound it had received.

It plunged into the thicket, and we followed it some time, but without being able to overtake it. We were more successful in our endeavours to obtain a wider prospect of the country, which, surrounded by rugged precipices and shaggy rocks, produced the most delightful effect when seen from above. To the south and west we beheld a part of the mountains of Zugar, and the sea-coast as far as Hamamet; to the north, the plain we had passed through yesterday, bordered by rows of gentle hills, over which the peak of the Lead Mountain projected boldly, partly obscured by the descending veils of rain, partly illuminated by bursts of light breaking forth from the black clouds, and enclosing it as with a brilliant frame of gold; at our feet, in a green, deep, bushy ground, lay the city surrounded by marabuts and country-houses, and adorned, towards the south, by towering palm-trees.

On the way back, we viewed the interior of several gardens: they are rendered extremely fertile by the abundant supply of water, and in some of them we found remarkable cisterns in the shape of wells, about one hundred feet deep and thirty in diameter, probably the work of the Moors. Every where our servants were loaded with baskets of beautiful fruit, for which pay-

ment of any kind was positively declined; and at sunset we returned to our dwelling, highly gratified with our day's employment.

It is a pity the Sauwan is so far from Tunis, for it would be exactly the spot for the country-houses of wealthy inhabitants and foreigners. Here they might combine all the *agrémens* of Europe and Africa: the pure atmosphere, the temperature of the climate, the unlimited supply of fresh spring-water, so invaluable in these regions, and so abundant here, that perhaps the rest of the kingdom scarcely contains as much, would alone suffice to make it preferable to every other part. It is true some disadvantages must be enumerated. I found my sugar-box completely full of ants; and it is difficult to protect oneself against the flies, even in the rooms; while by night the gnats are still more abominable. Fortunately I had learned from a chamber-maid at Algiers an excellent remedy for the sting of a gnat, consisting in the simple application of lemon-juice. Against the flies my young negro is obliged to keep up a continual battle: he crouches by the side of my bed, and drives them carefully away; else it would be impossible either to write or lie down in a lighted room.

My next day was more fatiguing, and fortune less favourable to me. I had some difficulty in making my Shech understand that I wished to climb to the highest summit of the Sauwan, against which he had objections of all kinds to make. He maintained, among other things, that it would require eight hours to reach the summit, though my experience in climbing mountains convinced me, as I afterwards found to be the case, that four or five hours would be fully sufficient; the Sauwan being at most three or four thousand feet high, and more than half-way practicable for a horse. We set off at eight o'clock, favoured by the finest weather possible. Quickly ascending, we arrived at half-past nine at a marabut, where the Shech who accompanied us declared that we could no longer make use of our mules or horses. The road had afforded many picturesque views, and already an immense prospect was opening before us; but, however, a thin mist, or rather vapour, in the plain, prevented us from completely enjoying it; a real calamity, but one which I am sorry to say occurs almost daily in this part of Africa during spring or summer: but the rocks in our vicinity were more clear and magnificent, and, like clouds, assumed alternately the fantastic forms of griffins,

lions, castles, giants, &c. Wherever a plant could find root, the limestone was covered with bushwood, among which the red and yellow mingled agreeably with all imaginable shades of green. Flowers we saw but seldom, but often met a beautiful dark-blue plant, frequently found in the plain as far as Tunis, but not beyond that city; it resembles a coral tree, for it consists of a multitude of intertwining branches without leaves, the place of the latter being supplied by small thorns. The Bedouins daub them over with honey, and hang them like chandeliers to the ceiling of their tents, to attract the flies, which soon form a complete incrustation around them.

Near the marabut, were some old caroubiers, under the shade of which we took a few hours' repose. Not far thence the Bey has had an enormous ice-pit walled up like a cistern; but so badly constructed, that, although it has never been used, it is already falling into decay. I again desired the Shech to point out to me exactly the highest peak of the mountain: he indicated the one nearest to us, consisting merely of precipitous masses of rock; and at eleven o'clock, disregarding the excessive heat, I began to climb up, accompanied by my secretary, Mustapha, and three guides; the

others all requested to be excused. After two hours we reached the summit, though not without great exertion, which was the more difficult to me, as I still limped in consequence of having sprained my foot at Carthage. But what was our disappointment to find that our view was limited to two sides! on the others, four or five peaks, each higher than the one to which we had been sent on a wild-goose chase, presented an impenetrable curtain before the greater part of the surrounding country. However, we could now with facility distinguish the real summit of the Sauwan, but a good hour's distance away, and at least one thousand feet higher than the spot on which we were standing. In my rage I loaded the guides with reproaches, and was very near speaking to them still more energetically with my mountain staff; they humbly excused themselves by saying, the Shech had positively ordered them to say this was the highest point of the Sauwan. My resolution was soon taken. A range of narrow craggy rocks appeared to lead to the wished-for pinnacle, and I was at first inclined to attempt it; but as the Bedouins unanimously protested that it was impracticable for human foot, and I was scarcely in a condition to attempt a *tour de force*, I submitted

to the disagreeable necessity of very prosaically returning the same way I had come, and seeking another road to the real object of my expedition. J—— begged to be allowed, in spite of the assertion of the guides, to attempt the range of rocks; and, as I had nothing to say against it, he immediately proceeded on his adventurous attempt.

A short rest on the airy height, and the enjoyment of a few oranges, which in such circumstances is far preferable to drinking, revived my strength; in the mean time, however, owing to the increased irritation of my foot during the descent, I was obliged to proceed slowly, and my watch already pointed to the third hour of the afternoon when we joined the Shech. I rated him severely. In his defence, he said he had acted with the best intention; for the point to which I wished to attain had never been reached by any one, and even on that which I had just visited there had been only a few occasional strangers, and lastly some Englishmen (probably Sir Grenville Temple and his companions), who had been quite satisfied with it; at all events, he said, it was too late for an expedition which required more than a whole day to execute. I got Mustapha immediately to tell him, that if he did not instantly conduct

me whither I required to go, I would request, as a particular favour, that the Bey would order him an application of five hundred blows on the soles of his feet. This operated like magic, and it was now discovered that we could ride up in that direction for two hours farther; though in that case, we should certainly have a very difficult ascent, and that not altogether without danger, before we could reach the extreme cone of the mountain, to which the Bedouins themselves scarcely seemed to know the way. In a few minutes our horses were bridled; the mules laden with wine, fruit, and water; (for at a greater height springs are no longer to be found) and then, with the Shech at our head, who, I verily believe, had told me all these lies merely to save himself the trouble of a farther escort, we set off at full speed towards a thicket, breathing the richest odours of wild jasmine and honeysuckle. As long as it was physically possible for the horses to climb the rock, we made use of them; but at length we were obliged to effect our progress through clefts and ravines as well as we could. It was already seven o'clock, when with indescribable labour we had reached a spot from which we could have gained the summit in about half an hour; but here, obtaining for the first time an

extensive range of view, (for hitherto we had been enclosed by precipices and perpendicular rocks) we ascertained, to our bitter mortification, that the mist had become so dense during our ascent, that any enjoyment of an extensive prospect was out of the question. Every object appeared to me to be enveloped in dark-blue gauze, and only a few lakes here and there seemed to be converted, by the reflection of the descending sun, into brilliant masses of liquid gold. Now, as I never do a useless thing merely for the vanity of having done it, and as I felt extremely exhausted, I gave up the undertaking for that day,—the more readily, as we had reason to hope, that, by hastening our return, we might get over the worst part of our road before night-fall, and reach the town, though it might be somewhat late. Had I obstinately persisted in my first resolution, we must have made up our minds to have passed the cold night on the Sauwan, heated, bathed in perspiration, and without the shelter of a roof. To this pleasure I had not the least inclination to expose myself.

We had scarcely made a few steps downward, when the report of a pistol, thundering down the mountain with a thousand echoes, announced that J——, whose long absence

was beginning to excite some uneasiness, had accomplished his enterprise, and thereby acquired the glory of being probably the first European, since the times of the ancients, who set foot upon this point. In half an hour he joined us, but in a state of complete exhaustion, his clothes torn, himself wounded in several places, and as wet as if he had been dipped in water: but with the exception of these mountain disasters, fortune, on the whole, had been much more favourable to him than to us, for he had seen a lioness springing majestically over crags ten or fifteen feet in height, in pursuit apparently of some game. She had come so near him, that he had been able to distinguish her, and fired at her twice, but unfortunately without hitting his mark.

It was dark when we arrived at our marabut, where the herd was just being milked,—a joyful sight for us! They could hardly furnish milk enough, even when diluted with the cold water of the spring, to satisfy our intense thirst. In Switzerland, they advise you not to drink cold milk when over-heated; but in this climate it seems to cool the blood more agreeably than any other kind of liquid, and is at the same time more easy of digestion: I at least drank several cansfull, without expe-

riencing the slightest injury. It was ten o'clock, and quite dark, when we got home: the only effect of the day's fatigue seemed to be an irresistible inclination to sleep; accordingly we all declined the evening meal, and consigned ourselves to our soft beds, where we enjoyed, till eight o'clock next morning, a complete annihilation of all consciousness. When one gets up after such a sleep, it is a real enjoyment to look back upon it; and I believe it will be the same with the sleep of death. Perhaps then also we shall repose long and deeply before we awake again to new life: for my part, I wish myself as few dreams then as on this occasion.

My intention was, after one day's repose, to recommence the ascent of the mountain;—a feat, on which I had staked my honour, independently of the interest I personally felt in the exploit; for I had positively promised a young lady in Tunis, not to continue my journey till I was able, as an eye-witness, to give her the most correct particulars respecting the summit of the Sauwan. But news from the capital, and other occurrences, delayed the expedition; I availed myself of the interim to make some agreeable excursions on horseback into the country, and to take some sketches. One

evening, as I was drawing on the hill, on the slope of which the burying-ground is situated, and which affords a most favourable point for a panoramic view of the town, an old Mamaluk approached me, and, to my great surprise, addressed me with tolerable fluency in German. His name, when a Christian, had been Rosenberg; he was a native of Salzburg, and was now sixty-five years old. He told me he had served in the Austrian army, with another countryman, and the brother of the latter: a few years afterwards he deserted with his friend, and, after a variety of adventures, they had been taken by a Tunisian corsair. They adopted Islamism, became Mamaluks of the Bey, and continued for forty years to share joy and sorrow together. Two years ago a letter came from the long-forgotten younger brother of his comrade, who in the mean time had risen to the rank of a general; and having learned the melancholy fate of his senior, urged him to join him, and remitted money and every other necessary to one of the consuls. "You may easily imagine," continued the old man, "that my friend did not hesitate to avail himself of such unexpected good fortune; but I have heard nothing from him since; and as I am now old, set aside as useless, and scarcely

able to provide against hunger, I anxiously wish to follow him, and see my dear country once more before I die!" He begged me to assist him in the attainment of his views, and I promised to do so. I did this the more willingly, as it immediately reminded me of my patron, the missionary of the English Bible Society at Tunis, on whom I was sure I should at once confer an honour and a pleasure, by effecting, if not quite a new edition of a Christian, at least a new impression of one; for you may easily, my dear Schefer, trust my good principles so far, as to think I believe there was no pardon to be hoped for by the penitent Mamaluk, without a return to that faith from which alone salvation is to be expected. You know I had once before the good fortune to convert a Jew;—what a satisfaction to me now to be able to confer the same benefit on a Turk, and moreover a renegade! I hope our German *Sonntagsblatt* will hardly fail to acknowledge this with all due honour; else it will certainly be liable to the charge of a most unchristian degree of partiality.

My *protégé*, in the course of conversation, showed that he possessed no slight degree of cultivation and power of observation; and as he had lately spent more time in the

provinces than in Tunis, he was able to furnish me with much valuable information. Two anecdotes,—one of a very tragic, the other of a comic nature,—which were subsequently confirmed to me at Sfax, I must communicate to you, as they strikingly characterize the customs of the country.

The Caïds, living at a distance from Tunis, exercised formerly an unbridled power over their vassals,—a power, which the late Sapatapa, now fallen into disgrace, was the first to reduce to the rules of order and regularity. Though in general just where their own interest is not concerned, it is still very dangerous to tempt their avidity by the display of wealth and luxury; and the means which they sometimes make use of, on such occasions, are truly romantic. The lately deceased Caïd of Monasteer presented the following instance. A Moor, of the name of Achmet Tria, who possessed a considerable fortune, had, by cautious conduct and a blameless life, baffled all the attempts of the Caïd to "bleed him," as my Mamaluk expressed it. Scarcely ever showing himself out of his own house, and addicted to no passion, he sought happiness only in the bosom of his own family, and particularly in the society of a beautiful

daughter, whom he adored, and for whom alone he seemed to live. With difficulty he had been prevailed on to consent to her marriage with one of his friends, when, shortly before the intended ceremony, she was suddenly taken ill and died. According to the custom of the natives, she was shortly afterwards buried in the cemetery, at a considerable distance from the town; and the inconsolable father, abandoning himself to grief, withdrew more than ever from all kinds of amusement, and became an object of compassion to the whole town. After a few days, during which he was denied to his most intimate friends, he received an order to repair instantly to the Caïd. He obeyed, and found him in his room, attended only by one confidential servant. "I hear," said the Caïd, with a serious look, "that thy young and beautiful daughter has died suddenly. What was the cause of her unnatural death?"

"I know not, my lord," answered Achmet, with a deep sigh; "a malignant fever, the cause of which is known to God alone, tore her from me in a few days, and left me a prey to grief for the remainder of my life."

"Hypocrite, abominable old miscreant!" thundered the Caïd; "thy dissimulation shall

avail thee nothing. Thou hast thyself murdered thy innocent child, stabbing her thrice with thy dagger, after having in vain persecuted her with dishonourable proposals. Instantly confess thy crime, or I will speedily find means to extort the truth from thee."

The horrified father believed himself in a dream. "What a cruel jest art thou passing on an unhappy old man!" he exclaimed, indignantly; "I commit such abominations! I, who loved my daughter more than my own eyes, I murder her! What horrible, what groundless calumny!"

"Ha! thou givest me the lie! Dog, thou shalt rue thy obstinacy at the stake."

"My lord, I do not give thee the lie, but only those who have palmed such diabolical inventions upon thee."

"Silence!" commanded the Caïd; "the investigation will show on whose side the falsehood lies."

He ordered some officers of justice and a physician to be called, and the accused was bound and conducted to the burying-ground. The body was dug up, her garments were taken off, and the horror of the father may be conceived on beholding three deep wounds on the body of his daughter, one of which had

pierced the heart, and was declared by the physician to have been the cause of her death. No asseveration, no despair availed; and the wretched old man was conveyed to prison with tears in his eyes and imprecations on his lips: there he was detained for several months, till the matter had fallen into oblivion. The Caïd then sent him word through a third person, that he had deferred the affair so long from a motive of compassion, and that means might be found to suppress it altogether, if Achmet would immediately pay him the sum of thirty thousand piasters. What could the unfortunate man do but submit? He converted the rest of his property into money, and quitted his native city, the aspect of which could only awaken in him feelings of horror. It was only after the death of the Caïd, that the father's innocence was ascertained. A slave, by order of his master, had dug up the body of the maiden on the night after the funeral, had inflicted the three wounds with a dagger, and had thus afforded the long-sought opportunity to plunder the best-reputed man in the whole town.

The ludicrous *pendant* to this atrocity, of which many similar instances are to be met with in the history of the middle ages, (indeed the state of civilization here bears a

strong affinity to those times) reposes on a singular superstition generally prevailing here. They believe it by no means necessary that a child must come into the world after nine months, but that it may sleep for years in the womb of its mother; when, however, it awakes, the birth must proceed. It may easily be imagined how convenient this proves for the women, whose husbands are often absent for years together on their long trading voyages, and whom, on their return, they may nevertheless present with a child that in the mean time has been sleeping. There is, however, another motive for keeping this belief in existence. If a subject die childless, the Bey is his heir: in that case the widow generally maintains that she is carrying a slumbering child; after a while she marries again, or perhaps she does not; but she is confined at all events and the child passes on the mother's declaration for the legitimate heir of her deceased husband.

There still lives in Sfax an old opulent glazier of the name of Ben Heya, to whom such a sleeping heir was born in rather a strange manner, about two years ago. He declared to his wife, already sixty years of age, who had presented him only with daughters,

but who for twelve years had been carrying a sleeping child, that, as he was growing old, it was absolutely necessary he should have a son, in order to secure his property. If, therefore, her sleepy customer did not manage to wake up within fourteen days, he would divorce her, and marry a younger wife.

The old woman, whose second daughter had just been confined, went to her to complain of her affliction, and met a young girl in the market-place, carrying in her arms a boy scarcely a week old. "Oh, my dear," she cried, "wilt thou do me the favour to fetch me four carubas' worth of henna in the next street? Here are four carubas more for thy trouble;—I am so weary that I cannot go another step."

The poor girl, delighted with the prospect of gain, was ready immediately. "Leave the child with me in the mean time," continued the old woman, "that thou mayst run the quicker."

With these words she took the boy caressingly into her arms, and the girl ran off to execute her errand: but she was scarcely round the corner, when the sly beldam ran off with her booty, got immediately into bed, raised a loud cry, and communicated to the slaves, who came running in, the unexpected intelligence, that her child had at length

awoke, and had come into the world. Her daughter was immediately sent for. On her arrival, the same information was communicated to her, and the child exultingly shown her, at the size of which she was not a little surprised.

"Why, he has had time to grow fat during his long sleep," exclaimed the mother; "but pray do give him the breast; I am grown too old, I suppose, for I perceive no symptoms of milk."

The daughter, far from doubting her mother's words, did as she was desired. A messenger had meanwhile fetched the father from his work, who arrived overjoyed to embrace his long-expected heir: but this was not allowed, under the pretext that he might cast an evil eye upon it. "Wait till the child has got a little strength," said the old lady; "in fourteen days you shall see it, not before."

There were great rejoicings in the house; the lamb was slaughtered, the cuscussu and all the delicacies of the Mahometan kitchen were prepared, the friends were invited to the feast, and the *accouchée* remained in bed, drinking broth, and observing all the prescriptions which her situation required.

On the other hand, the fright of the poor girl may be imagined, when, returning with the

henna, she neither found the child nor the old woman with whom she had left it. She filled the town with her lamentations; and the mother, followed by a crowd of people, immediately brought her complaint before the Caïd. As she could not, however, give any very exact description of the kidnapper, no one knew how to trace the criminal in a place where nothing like a police is known. The midwife Menä Bent Catalia was at length charged, under one pretext or another, to make inquiries in every house in the city where it was likely that a young child might be found, and the mother of the kidnapped infant was to accompany her. On the third day, they chanced to arrive at the glazier's house, where the strange story of the boy born after a sleep of twelve years appeared very suspicious to the midwife, who was perhaps pretty well acquainted with the general character of such stories. She accordingly pleaded the order of the Caïd, and demanded to see the wonderful child; but this the old lying-in lady stedfastly refused, still alleging her fear of the evil eye. At this moment, the *corpus delicti*, who was lying under the quilt, uttered a faint cry. With the unerring instinct of maternal affection, the injured mother immediately recognised

her own. Like a tigress she threw herself upon the bed, pummelled and bit the old woman, and snatched up the child, which the other vainly endeavoured to seize by the legs. There was no need of a Solomon's judgment, for the cheat could not possibly be sustained. The delicate lying-in lady was obliged to leave her warm bed, and follow the officers to the house of the Caïd, where, instead of the caresses of her family, she received fifty stripes on the soles of her feet, and closed her baffled expedition with an immediate divorce and a well-merited expulsion from the house of her too credulous lord.

A leading feature in the character of the natives is to raise an infinity of difficulties on every trifling occasion, to magnify every gnat into an elephant, and to waste a world of time in useless exclamations: on the other hand, it must be acknowledged to their credit, that when they have once conquered this evil disposition, no one endures fatigue of every kind with better humour, than these very men, who at the beginning appeared so unwilling. A stranger must never lose sight of this, or he will soon be utterly discouraged, and unable to execute any thing. If I, for instance, had allowed myself to be fooled, I should never

have caught sight of the summit of the Sauwan. I therefore deem it not inexpedient to inform future travellers in these regions of the following details, though to the general reader they may perhaps appear tedious: at the same time, my dear Schefer, I fully expect, that, beside yourself, this letter will find some hundreds of thousands of readers.

You know already what happened on the former occasion, and the Shech was punished for his negligence, or for intentionally leading me astray, by having to maintain me and my suite in free quarters for four days longer, according to the approved manner of the country. The 21st of June was definitively fixed for our departure, and also for the second ascent of the mountain, fatiguing as it was, in such a climate and at such a season, to execute a feat of this kind twice in the course of one week. I intend, however, in my park at Muskau to conclude my labours with a temple to Perseverance, so I must not spoil myself here in Africa. Every possible precaution had been used, and every necessary information obtained, in order to prevent a second failure; and yet, but for my firmness, all would have again been frustrated. The following arrangements had been made: a waggon with our heavy luggage,

with the Mamaluks, my secretary, one of the Hambi, and a guide, was to go round, through the plain, to Zugar; I and the rest, with two guides, who, I was assured, were intimately acquainted with the whole neighbourhood, were to ascend the mountain, and afterwards descend on the other side by a footpath, which would bring me likewise, before night, to Zugar.

A few minutes before the time, a message arrived from the Shech, who excused himself from accompanying me, by pleading sudden illness. Disagreeable as this was, I took no further notice of it, but set off without delay. At scarcely half a league from the town, the two guides stopped, and declared that, on due consideration, they could not undertake to find the way to Zugar on the other side of the mountain; if, therefore, I insisted on climbing to the summit, we should afterwards be obliged to return to the spot where we then were, and then take the same road through the plain, by which the waggon had preceded us. It was easy to calculate that, if this had been possible, it would have been quite impossible to have executed my plan, as we should require at least nine hours to return, and then eight hours more to reach Zugar, by a long round through the plain. Now neither could the animals have

done this, nor was there time for it. Hereupon a long *pour parler* commenced between the colonel and my people and the guides, but without leading to any other result. After having silently observed these proceedings for a while, I gave the people to understand, through the interpreter, that they had done very wrong not to have informed me sooner of their ignorance of the road; but seeing that was the case, I should submit to necessity, and return, after having ascended the mountain; but that afterwards, though my luggage had preceded me, I should nevertheless return to their Shech, and pass that night with him, and the following day. After these words I rode on, and commanded that, if the guides would not proceed by fair means, they should be driven along, which I could do the more easily, as I now knew the way to the marabut myself. It was not long before the fellows threw off their ill-humour, and, beginning to talk, laugh, and sing, they climbed up so fast that we had some difficulty in following them with our horses and mules. One of the latter stumbled about ten feet down a precipice, which, however, was attended by no other calamity than a little delay, the demolition of a few pitchers, and, what I certainly regretted, the destruction

of an umbrella—a token of remembrance brought me from England by the amiable Princess C.

As soon as we had reached the marabut, I sent for one of the shepherds residing there, and had him closely questioned by Mustapha. This relieved us at once from every difficulty, and made us independent of the Shech's cunning guides; for, on promise of a reward of ten piasters, our new acquaintance not only promised to serve us himself as a guide, but also to lead us to the summit by a quite different way, somewhat longer indeed than our former one, but more easy and less dangerous. He promised, afterwards, to take us down on the other side to a second marabut, where we might easily procure a new guide, who would accompany us in a few hours to Zugar. I was now sure of my point, and learned at the same time that two eminent saints were buried on the extreme summit of the Sauwan, which was probably the real ground of all the difficulties that had been raised.

When the horses had recovered themselves, and the pitchers had been filled with the exquisite water of the spring, we pursued our journey in excellent spirits. After a quarter of an hour the Arabs called my attention to the

fresh track of a lion, plainly impressed on the sandy path, and which we followed for a few minutes till we lost it sideways among some bushes. The animal itself we did not see, though it was no doubt close to us, and probably the same which I had met with in the mountain some days before. We had distributed ourselves so that I led the procession, and the colonel brought up the rear; a very necessary arrangement to urge on our animals and their guides, their heavy loads making it certainly very difficult to climb over such trying ground. It is indeed surprising that every thing went off so well, for they were obliged to follow us more than a third way up the whole mountain, to the point from which the descent on the other side commenced. Even my own mule, usually so sure-footed, made one false step, and a very disagreeable stumble, detaching a large stone, which plunged down at least five hundred feet into the abyss, as if to show me the way.

The *plateau* on which we breakfasted, was bordered by a small grove of white and red thorns, and from among the white limestone rocks, scattered about, many beautiful flowers projected. The Bedouins gathered from among them a very different article of perfume, the

dry dung of the mountain-goats, which bears a strong scent of musk, and in its form also is not unlike the *pastilles du serail.* Several large white vultures soared majestically over us; and when we had lain down on the carpets spread for us by our negroes, a partridge flew out of a thicket, not acquainted probably, in these elevated regions, with the danger to be apprehended from the vicinity of man. Fortunately for the bird, our active Nimrod, J—— was not at hand, and so it escaped, to enjoy for a longer period of life the happy elevation of its residence. From this point we had about four hundred yards further to climb on foot; this was easily accomplished, the rocks forming tolerable steps, and a cool wind continually refreshing us.

When we were near the summit, a pleasing sight presented itself to our view. We saw it suddenly crowned by a flock of several hundred black goats, coming from the other side, and seeming to salute us with their good-humoured bleating as they sprung from crag to crag. In a quarter of an hour we stood before the graves of the saints, under which shortly before a flaky cloud had swept slowly along, that almost touched us in its passage. As high-priest of the sanctuary, a sun-burnt old goat-

herd, with a pair of large white mustachio, received us: he is himself a sort of a saint, having spent his whole life here, grazing his four hundred goats and watching the graves, to which office he believes himself peculiarly called by Heaven. His only shelter seemed to be the azure canopy of heaven, and occasionally the caverns in the side of the mountain. I performed, before the sepulchres, the devout ceremonies usual among Mahometans, by way of making my court to the old fellow, and then we all lay down at the foot of the venerable circles of stone, which consisted merely of unhewn pieces of rock piled one upon another.

The close view of the mountain range, with its bold masses of rock and its giddy abysses, as well as the various lights of a panorama of nearly ten leagues, seen from the base, were exquisitely beautiful. Several salt lakes glittered in the sun—wide spaces overgrown with wild caraway, little pleasing to the eye when closely viewed, but from this elevation presenting the appearance of fertile verdant meadows, and forming an agreeable contrast with the black masses of brushwood, which looked like large forests, while our horses below us with their gay saddle-cloths seemed to us like pretty variegated insects. At a farther distance every

thing was seen indistinctly through an abominable misty vapour, the more surprising, as immediately about the mountain the atmosphere was delightfully clear. But for this, the view would have been of immense extent, as it must have reached to Gerid on the one side, and to the mountains of Constantine on the other. As it was, we could only just distinguish Tunis and the Marsa, the sea near Susa, and the chaos of innumerable mountains in the Byzacium. According to the herdsmen, a clear view of the distance is only to be hoped for in winter, and then but occasionally.

My suite were much less respectful than myself towards the saints, whether living or dead, for my Arabs teased the poor recluse incessantly; pressing him, among other things, to drink out of a pitcher of wine, the mere sight of which filled him with horror. To console him, I gave him a piece of dainty pastry, a remnant of our yesterday's dinner, which I had observed him contemplating with longing eyes while I was eating a part of it. His tormentors would not, however, allow him to enjoy it; for just as he was about, with evident satisfaction, to convey it to his mouth, they whispered to one another, loud enough for him to hear it, that the pastry

had been prepared with hog's lard. Immediately the old man, who had grown grey in abstinence, handed the delicacy to the wanton jester, who, without loss of time, devoured it himself, laughing heartily at the success of his own pleasantry. I offered him another piece, and assured him, through Mustapha, that the cake had been prepared by the wives of his own Shech; but, his suspicions having once been excited, he would not accept it. His cheerful humour, however, continued unaltered. He told us all sorts of strange stories; and when, at the expiration of an hour, we prepared for our return, he assured us he could show us a much *nearer* way to the place where we had left our horses: and he certainly kept his word, but I suspect that he intended to take his revenge for the teasing he had endured; for the path, leading immediately down the face of the rocks, was practicable perhaps for him and his goats, but we could get over it only by creeping very carefully upon all fours. The unfortunate colonel in particular, who had never the least practice in climbing mountains, and who, because his boots were uncomfortable, had put on slippers, was very near remaining suspended between earth and heaven. Although two guides

occupied themselves exclusively with him, he was a good half-hour later than the rest of us before he arrived, cursing the old goblin, who meanwhile had, unperceived, vanished among the rocks, taking leave, as we say, *à la Française*, so that I had no opportunity even of handing him the reward which I had destined for his merry jest. Who knows, indeed, secluded as he was from all earthly beings, and completely given up to fanaticism, whether he would have accepted any thing from an infidel?

We remounted our mules, and again passed along winding-paths, through very romantic regions, where, in proportion as we descended, often no less than six or seven ranges of variously tinted hills seemed magnificently piled on each other. I was particularly struck by a spacious basin with a slight breach on one side, occasioned by the fall of a rocky crest: we afterwards had a nearer view of it; for our path (and a most difficult one it was) led us directly through it. On the other side are still standing some Roman ruins, remarkable for the extraordinary size of the stones used in their construction. Not far from thence we reached the marabut, of which our guide had before informed us, and at the same time a

duar, built with the stones of the ruins, where we were entertained with excellent cow's milk. Here, after a short stay, we dismissed the people we had hitherto employed, and engaged a new ragamuffin of a Bedouin, who ran on before us, with his long staff and Jacob's dress. Unfortunately this man did not know the road himself, and led us backwards and forwards through the barren and monotonous labyrinth of hills, covered for the greater part with stinking gummy evergreens, with here and there alum protruding; so that it was seven o'clock in the evening before we reached Zugar, though we were free from the mountain at one. At last we were obliged to ride boldly through the plain, regardless of any kind of track, guided only by the compass. During this our voyage of discovery, we crossed the high road from Keruan towards the west. Here we met a Bedouin chief, with a numerous train and beautiful horses, whose rich costume glittered from afar in the sun, and was remarkable for a straw hat in the shape of a parasol, lined with silk, and thickly covered with black ostrich feathers. Only the chiefs of the Desert and of the Gerid wear this ornament, which is as tasteful and convenient as the whole of their dress. As there are no people who know better how to

guard themselves against the cold than the Russians, so they understand here better than any where else how to battle with the heat; and you will scarcely believe me when I tell you, that I find my best protection against the climate, in wearing, like the natives, a silk cap on my head, over that a woollen cap, and over that a large straw hat lined with paper; while over my arms, and the rest of my habiliments, I wear two Bernoos' mantles made of fine white cloth. Without these one would be exposed to *coup de soleil*, and other dangerous effects of the burning luminary.

In Zugar I begin the same kind of life as on the Hammal and among the Atlas Mountains. My tent, bed, and carpet must serve me for shelter and abode; but this time I have at least walls over me,—a long, narrow, dark vault, even with the ground, without windows, horribly hot, and inhabited by millions of flies and gnats. Milk, fowls, and eggs served us for a repast, but, seasoned by hunger, they tasted delicately. I find a milk diet agrees with me, and I have given wine up altogether, as it heats me too much in this climate. Mahomet, who was half a doctor, had a good reason for denying the Arabs the use of wines and spirits: on the Russians and Samoyedes he

would probably have enjoined them. But what say you to that other insatiable thirst of mankind—the thirst for novelty? For instance, it only depends on myself to indulge in every enjoyment, and tranquilly lead the life of a Sybarite in the most luxurious cities of Europe. I,—who am so devoted to Sybaritism and every kind of epicurean philosophy, and yet, of my own free will, often live worse than a day-labourer,—endure fatigues and deprivations of all imaginable variety,—expose myself to danger and sickness, and all through mere *curiosity*. Ay, and the pleasure which I derive from the *active* gratification of this desire is so much greater than any other, that I not only willingly abandon myself to it anew, at whatever cost, but even the recollection of such a life is infinitely more attractive to me than all the revellings and excitements of the senses that have ever fallen to my share. How beautiful, that all eternity is one ever-enduring advance! But let not a man bury his talent by the way, whether the Creator have bestowed on him a large measure or a small. Every where his love yields blossoms and fruit; and when these fall off, they are succeeded by new ones, and after death comes new life.

Father of all! Thy name be praised for ever,

if only for the bliss to *feel* Thee, though but little we *know* of Thee. Amen!

Zugar is a wretched hamlet, but the extensive plain is rich in the ruins of departed cities, including the ancient Zugar or Zuchara, the name of which has scarcely suffered any alteration. The few houses that compose the modern town are advantageously situated on a gentle elevation, inclosed on two sides by high mountains with bushy glens; in front the Sauwan, which from this side appears even more rugged than from Tunis, and on the fourth side, the above-mentioned plain, bounded again in the distance by other mountains, some of them of considerable altitude. In the foreground, embellished by the remains of several ancient buildings, is seen a small aqueduct, which bore its tribute to that of the Sauwan, and of which the eye can still discover many traces. The small glen, into which the water now flows, is completely filled with flowering oleander-bushes, which often attain a height of from twenty to twenty-five feet. A basin constructed in freestone, with the remains of a few columns, is so closely surrounded and encanopied by these shrubs, that an eternal shade prevails; here have I chosen my favourite retreat, by the side of a fountain issuing

from the half-decayed masonry; here I breakfasted to-day, with a pocket Virgil and a Shaw in folio. If I could have conjured over from home some of those I love, my happiness would have been complete, for the place had really something Elysian. In such single points this country is often not to be surpassed; but taken altogether, if the charm of novelty is excepted, I must own that the more beautiful parts of our own country far exceed it. Let that console those who have remained at home!

M. J——, who had been obliged to make a great round through the plain, had several times lost his way, and had found the greatest trouble to get the heavy carreta through horrible roads, over dry beds of rivers and through thickets of brushwood, saw the ruins of two large cities, in one of which, nine columns of a temple were still standing. As he had got so far out of his road, it is very possible, judging from ancient maps, that one of these collections of ruins may have been Zama, although the learned differ greatly in their opinions respecting the real site of that place. At least, the plain, which I contemplated from the summit of the Sauwan, is admirably situated for a field of battle, and the

historical accounts do not disagree with the locality: but how much here is still enveloped in obscurity! It were to be wished that a professed antiquary could visit this country, with the necessary time, means, protection, activity, and perseverance, to devote to his labours several years of incessant research. There is no doubt that much of interest and value might be discovered and collected. I often regret that no person of this description in Europe should have expressed a wish to join me, nor that our government should have thought proper to attend to my suggestions on the point. Though of short duration, the opportunity would in many respects have been a favourable one. I made the offer right and left, but without success; and I am sorry now that I did not make it through the public papers, merely because a sort of ridicule rests, very unjustly, upon this most valuable branch of inquiry. In imitation of a celebrated German traveller, I should have preferred a lady, but no antique; and on the occasion of my next expedition, I shall not fail to issue an official invitation to that effect throughout all Europe. This, in the meanwhile, may serve as a first advertisement.

In the afternoon we rode to a temple, about

half a league off, which the Romans constructed over a spring, almost equal in richness to the Vaucluse, and which once contributed to the supply of Carthage. The building is square and not large, but the interior was highly picturesque, the circuit wall up to the roof having been preserved, as well as some remains of steps and the vaulted hall over the water. The impenetrable foliage of a fig-tree overshadowed, as with a cupola, the basin of the fountain, which, as it flowed along in indescribable purity, resembled a stream of liquid silver; and against the loftiest of the remaining walls stood a caroubier, at least some centuries old, of the size of an average oak, and whose black crown, with the branches hanging down in festoons, contrasted charmingly with the golden verdure of its neighbour, and gracefully harmonized with the serious character of the ruins. The water was as icy cold as it was transparent, but we were warned not to drink of it during the excessive heat.

We observed a stone projecting from the wall; on one side was an eagle with an illegible inscription, in which, however, I thought I traced something like *Julius Cæsar* and *occasio;* on the other side was a laurel wreath, beautifully executed, and still tolerably

well preserved. Shaw makes no mention of this stone, though he saw the temple a hundred years ago, with its cupola complete, an inscription on the frieze, and the whole surrounded by a grove of evergreen oaks, of which not a single one now remains. Travellers who come a hundred years after me, if the work of destruction continue to proceed as it has done, will, I fear, find nothing but a heap of stones on the level ground.

From the temple to Zugar the aqueduct is almost always under ground. At the distance of every hundred paces are seen little round open towers, six to eight feet in diameter, projecting like chimneys, and destined probably to collect the rain-water. The aqueduct is evidently Carthaginian, and the temple of Roman construction, for I found the same plan and arrangement (only much more in ruins) at Uthina, on the spot where the aqueduct loses itself in the mountain: misled by the many remains of round towers, I was induced at first to take it for the ruins of a city wall.

The distant horizon being to-day much clearer than yesterday, I ascended a considerable mountain, at the foot of which the ruins are situated. My trouble was, however,

of little avail, higher peaks rising beyond it; still I discovered, looking towards the desert, a veiled portion of Numidia, in the direction of Thala and Capsa, where Jugurtha had his strongest fortresses, and where Cæsar also made a very fatiguing campaign. That part of the country is full of ruins, and I would fain have made an excursion to explore it, if I could have spared the time, without sacrificing other and more important plans.

On our return to the temple, Nature presented us with a truly Arcadian picture. A cow calved before our eyes,—an event which seemed to excite at least as much interest in the Shech of Zugar and his Arabs, as would have been shown with us by the godfathers of a Christian child. The new-born calf was certainly a pretty little creature; it immediately saluted the sun with a joyful bleating, and was able, in ten minutes, to make a proper use of its four legs. With what pain and difficulty is all this acquired by us, the mighty monarchs of the animal world! and how completely we ever after remain the slaves of custom! This, for instance, was the first evening on which I was able to sit, for an hour together, with my legs drawn under me,

without feeling them cramped; a progress, however, in Turcomania which delighted me exceedingly.

The unnatural quantity of flies in Zugar, which fairly darkened my room, may be mentioned as one of the curiosities of the place. This morning they drank up half a cup of coffee on my breakfast carpet, after having first, like Suwarrow at Oczakow, obtained a firm footing by the sacrifice of a thousand dead bodies, over which other thousands continued to pass. After I had presented the Shech with some silk handkerchiefs for his harem, we crossed, the same forenoon, the last mountains that divided us from the sea-like plain of Keruan. The heat was much stronger than hitherto, and the ground everywhere cracked and broken, as in the crater of Vesuvius. My companions were quite exhausted, but I, in the wrappings I have described to you, felt myself quite comfortable. The Sauwan, which continued close by our side, was to-day every moment changing its singular and picturesque forms; indeed our distant views on this day were all on a noble scale, but close to us we had nothing but monotonous evergreens on a stony soil. Towards eleven we reached a marabut, where extensive ruins cover two hills situated close

to one another, and where the tall summits of the mountains had grouped themselves into a charming landscape. Several old trees have sprung up from among the heaps of stones, and sometimes seem incorporated with them. We measured a caroubier and an olive-tree, two feet from the ground, and found the former twenty, the latter sixteen feet in circumference: they must both be several centuries old, and were still in the full force of vegetation. Among the ruins we remarked some bold arches without cement,—a tall slender column, which looks as if every gust of wind must blow it down,—but, most of all, an imposing temple, with several fallen pillars, architraves, and friezes, and many other interesting details: to these belong the turrets forming the entrance, both formed of one piece, and adorned with the most beautiful work in flowers and arabesques. The style varied much from that of all the ancient monuments I had seen; it was less severe, had more of the fantastic character of the south, without however deviating in the least from the noblest forms and the most tasteful order. The stone on the right is broken near the middle, and the upper part has fallen down; the other is entire, and the part above the ground measures twenty-four feet;

so that, including what is now buried, the whole height of this enormous mass may be calculated to have been at least thirty feet. On one of the fragments of the cornice I read in large capitals:

M A - - - - - - - -

G I P - - - - - - -

The remainder was obliterated. But near an ancient cistern I found a pedestal with the following inscription, which was deciphered without much difficulty, and which struck me as very original and remarkable, being evidently a lapidary satire engraved after the death of the individual in question:

ISTI SENATORI LIPARITANO
BASSO QUI EX REDI
TVIS XXII MILLIARVM QVAESTVS
LAMENTO REIPVBLICAE
DEDIT SEPTIMO QVO
QVE ANNO STATVAM
SIBI PONE LEX IS IIICC
NEMPE PVLPATIONIS NO
MINE DECVRIONIBVS
SPORTVLAM CVRIALIBVS
EX SEXAGENO SVMMAE
DIE NATALI SVO PRAEBIA
TARI IVSSIT. D. D.

I cannot ascertain what ancient place this may have been, as on the few maps I have with me nothing is marked in this direction, and I have not got here the other works which might afford information. Even Dr. Shaw makes no mention of these ruins, which from their former splendour and their proportionably small extent, seem to have been, not a city, but a group of temples, with probably the dwellings of the priests lying about them. The Arabs call the place Sidi Massud Ladsheni, after the marabut; for wherever there are remains of antiquity, you may be almost always sure of finding one. By the side flows the river Uad Gibina, now almost entirely dry, but the banks, as usual, bordered with flowering oleanders. This shrub seems fond of moisture, and of a stony soil composed of clay and sand; and enlivens exceedingly the landscape which would be otherwise so desolate. We remained here for some time, now roaming through the ruins, where we discovered a subterranean passage leading to the temple, then reclining under the large caroubier, whose thick foliage successfully defied the perpendicular rays which the sun poured down upon us. Our horses had drunk eagerly of the slimy water of the cisterns, in consequence of which we were

obliged to relieve them of several leeches that had fixed themselves upon their tongues. To men, also, such water is highly dangerous, and even in Algiers I had heard of instances, in which soldiers drinking incautiously had lost their lives, the leeches having fixed themselves upon the inner coat of the stomach. On our farther march we passed a wonderful region of rocks, the formation of which sometimes bore a striking resemblance to the old Cyclopean walls as they are called; other portions might have been taken for the remains of a well-paved Roman road. All this was here and there covered with stunted red cedars and wretched-looking shrubs of that kind; and the soil between the rocks consisted of deep sand. Towards two o'clock we reached the extensive but completely ruined remains of an ancient city, which offered nothing whatever deserving of farther mention; and shortly afterwards we descended into the immeasurable plain of Keruan, where nothing whatever interfered to mitigate the ardour of the burning sun.

We were obliged to spend the night there under my tent, with a mere apology for a supper, at a place where there was not even water for the horses: we had preserved a sufficient supply for ourselves in earthen pitchers,

in which it remains agreeably cool, even during the most violent heat. A few huts of Bedouins in the vicinity furnished us some eggs and sour milk, and at the same time the tribute of numberless fleas, that effectually prevented us from closing our eyes. To this was added a violent thunder-storm, with incessant lightning, crossing the distant mountains in every direction, accompanied by such heavy rain, that it had nearly crushed the feeble tent. This part of the country having a bad name for robberies and occasional murders, we had set sentinels round our encampment, who spent a worse night even than we did. It was four o'clock before the storm subsided, when we immediately broke up, and marched almost uninterruptedly to Keruan. Only once we remained for a few minutes in a well-watered river, Vad el Banna, to let our poor horses drink, for they had had no water since the preceding day at noon, though they had been somewhat refreshed by the heavy rain during the night.

At this river begins a prelude of the Sahara, a flat level desert, with scarcely a single object to break its monotony, as far as the horizon reaches, with no vegetation but a few burnt-up stunted shrubs, of at most half a foot in height.

This character it preserves till it joins the Usalitan Mountains, which, wrapped in blue vapour, are scarcely visible to our right. Not a single tree was to be seen far or near, but we now saw for the first time that wonder of the desert, called by the French the mirage. Suddenly we thought we saw two large magnificent lakes, with numerous bushy islands, and even ships sailing upon it; and quite refreshed by the cheerful spectacle, we asked eagerly after the name of this lucid lake. My dragoman was deceived as well as myself; but the Hamba, a dandy, with arms inlaid with silver, and nails dyed with henna, laughed as he told us, that no one would quench his thirst with that water, which was only a picture of the desert, such as we might see every day in the great Sahara. Though we were now aware that we had before us a mere phantasmagoria of nature, still it was impossible for us materially to recognise the illusion, for the spectacle continued a reality to our senses, till, when at about five hundred paces from it, it suddenly vanished, without leaving a trace behind. In this way the desert kindly entertained us with all that it could command, while the thermometer, in the shade of my saddle-bags, (for there is no shadow here but what a man makes

for himself,) showed thirty degrees of Reaumur (one hundred degrees of Fahrenheit). Still I cannot say that the heat inconvenienced me to any great degree; only my eyes suffered, but again these were tolerably well protected by my blue spectacles. I made the singular remark, that, to my feelings at least, the use of these spectacles diminished the effect of the heat by at least ten degrees. I leave it to physiologists to account for this; I only undertake to answer for the fact.

We had a little adventure of natural history, which J—— and I followed upwards of half an hour with great delight. A beetle of a black colour had found a horse-apple, an invaluable prize for him, and was endeavouring, with unexampled zeal and diligence, to get it into a place of security. With the force of a Hercules, and the fury of a fanatic, the animal, labouring with all its limbs, conveyed with wonderful rapidity a burden six times his own weight through the sand, rendered uneven by the hoofs of the horses; and this, not forwards but backwards, with his head on the ground, and his legs in the air. If the apple fell into a hole, out of which all his vigour was insufficient to extract it, he first levelled the sides of the abyss with great care,

in order to lessen the declivity, and gradually fill the vacuum with the falling sand. If his first attempt failed, and he rolled down again with his burden, he set patiently to work again, without allowing himself to be in the least discouraged, or without losing a moment's time till success had crowned his efforts. Only once we saw him repose for a moment, and nibble a little at the delicate morsel, by way of strengthening himself. At last, he had the misfortune to fall into so deep a pit, that all his endeavours to extricate himself appeared in vain. After he had repeatedly rolled down, overwhelmed by the weight of his little globe, I took compassion on him, and, having long guessed his object, I lifted him up, and deposited him, together with his treasure, under the shade of the wished-for bush. He seemed not in the least embarrassed by this intervention of a foreign power, but set zealously about his meal, practically availing himself of the advantage afforded him. But who can pry into the inscrutable decrees of Providence? Scarcely had the poor animal begun quietly to enjoy the fruits of his immense exertion, when we saw another beetle of the same kind, but larger and stronger, rapidly advancing, with his nose to the ground, like a well-trained

sporting-dog; and it was not long before he got scent of the prize. In a few instants he had reached my unsuspecting friend, who was sitting peacefully perched on the summit of his booty. Without hesitation, and with the rapidity of lightning, the stranger escaladed the steep apple; and now a combat began, to be compared only to that between Hector and Achilles. My *protégé* performed miracles of bravery. Twice thrown to the ground, he twice reconquered his position, but at length his exhausted strength no longer allowed him to compete with his gigantic antagonist. Wounded and vanquished, he was at length obliged to seek safety in a precipitate flight, and the immoral conqueror remained in possession of the booty and the field. How gladly would I have intervened in the cause of the oppressed! But may we venture to seize the wheel of destiny, and take it on ourselves to decide the question of legitimacy, without any knowledge of antecedent events? Faithful to my European principles, I only sighed over the apparently unmerited misfortune of the valiant scarabæus, but left the higher power to work its will; and, lost in painful reflections, I rode slowly away.

The sun was still tolerably high when we beheld the towers of the sacred city and its

celebrated mosque rising in the horizon,—the city in which the Arabs established their first dwelling-place in Africa, whence they conquered Spain, and were at length very near reducing all Europe to Islamism. But we should, perhaps, have taken the sublime locality, like our lake in the morning, for a mere illusion in the treeless desert, had we not been convinced of its reality by the appearance of two *halifas* (lieutenants of the governor) and a mounted escort of Bedouins, sent me by their chief, who had been advised of our intended visit. They brought me to a large house near the gate, which had been hastily arranged for me, and where, fatigued as I was, I lost no time in taking possession of a bed which had been prepared for me in a cool room. About an hour afterwards, the governor and hereditary Caïd of the city, whose family formerly reigned here with absolute power, and whose dignity has continued to be hereditary, sent to inquire whether he might be allowed to pay me a visit. I received him in bed, and begged him to take a place on an ottoman by the side of me, while my whole suite stood grouped about us in a very stately manner; for here, as elsewhere, a man to be of consequence must be somewhat *conse-*

*quential;* and, in many cases, a little decent impertinence may prove very well-timed in civilized as well as uncivilized countries. The governor was a tall, handsome man, of dignified manners, richly dressed, and also accompanied by a numerous train: our conversation lasted about half an hour. You remember the difficulties which they made me in the Bardo respecting my visit to Keruan, and what dangers they threatened me with from the fanatic inhabitants; insisting that I could be allowed only to travel through the place, but that I must on no account attempt to make a stay there. Nevertheless, the governor allowed me, without the slightest difficulty, to remain there the following day, and promised to get the Shechs of the city to show me about everywhere, with the solitary exception of the interior of the large mosque.

A short time after his departure, towards seven o'clock, half a dozen servants made their appearance with our dinner on a large table adorned with two-and-twenty dishes, each protected by a cover of plaited straw, besides fruits, milk, and lemonade. This was an agreeable compensation for our fast of the preceding day, and gave us at the same time a very high idea of the gastronomic qualifi-

cations of the old Caïd. But what delighted us most were some cucumbers, prepared quite in the European fashion, and some excellent fresh figs, twice as large and juicy as our own. The Arabs, like the Romans, and like the fashionable world with us, hold their *prandium* at twelve, and the more abundant *cœna* between seven and eight.

The night was all the less agreeable, for, notwithstanding my gauze curtains, several ultra blood-thirsty musquitoes had contrived to smuggle themselves in, and stung me most unmercifully. My two companions were tormented still worse, being forced to change their couches three times during the night, till at last they took up their quarters on the terrace, where a fresh breeze relieved them of the presence of their persecutors.

At ten o'clock in the morning I returned the governor's visit. The Shechs, who were come to accompany me, wished me to walk, as the sapatapa himself never rode through the streets of the holy city, except when on a journey: but as the governor had visited me on horseback, I insisted upon riding as far as his house, agreeing to visit the rest of the city with them on foot; to which proposal no difficulty was made. I found at the Caïd's

some of the heads of the clergy, who appeared pleased with the veneration which I manifested for Mahomet, and with my particular inquiries respecting all that concerned the sanctity of Keruan. On this occasion I learned that Keruan owed the high advantage of being the fourth city in the empire of Islam to the circumstance of containing the sepulchre of the friend and barber of the Prophet. This is an important charge among the retainers of an eastern sovereign, because it implies a high degree of confidence. His name was Ubait Lä, which signifies *a man of God;* and this worthy is said to have marked out the site of the great mosque, erected at a later period by Sultan Benirlib. All the ruins in the vicinity were plundered, to provide materials for this colossal temple, said to contain no less than five hundred granite columns. Its appearance and extent, surrounded as it is by a wall, give it, notwithstanding its beautiful cupolas and towers, the appearance of a citadel rather than a church. We walked round the whole edifice, accompanied by five or six grandees of the town; and, like a fox round a dovecote, I tried anxiously to peep into the inside. I did not, however, succeed, for every aperture was carefully closed. Before one of the gates lay an old iron cannon;

and the spiritual chief of our escort had the face to tell us very seriously, that Mahomet had been in the habit, during his wars, of sitting on this cannon, to pray to Allah for victory. We afterwards wandered through the whole of the city, which contains about 60,000 inhabitants, and is much cleaner than Tunis. On the *Suck*, and in the well-filled bazaar, I stopped a considerable time, and bought some trifles; among others, a bottle of attar of roses, as a memorial of Keruan: at the same time, to make myself popular, I bestowed rich presents on several begging dervishes. From the battlements of the Casba, which was opened to me without ceremony, I had a full view of the town and its environs; but here also every part of the mosque, with the exception of the turrets, was completely covered by the high surrounding wall; and my request to be conducted to a minaret in its immediate vicinity was positively refused. With this exception, we observed nothing of the fanaticism of which we had been told, not even a single expression of displeasure at our presence escaped from any one of the multitude that surrounded us. On the other hand, I witnessed an instance of most energetic clerical discipline: a half-naked marabut, to whom I had given an alms,

followed us somewhat importunately, but with the kind intention of presenting us with some apples tied to a string, when, suddenly, the clerical chief bestowed upon him such a tremendous box on the ear, that he rolled down upon the ground in the middle of the street. Whether this was done to relieve me of his importunity, or as a punishment for his offering a present to a Christian, is a point which I am not qualified to decide.

The governor assured me, that, to the best of his knowledge, I was only the fourth Christian traveller that had visited the place, and to no one had it been hitherto permitted to remain so long, or to examine the city in such detail. This, it appears, was conceded on the particular recommendation of His Highness the Bey, who had sent a mamaluk express to the Caïd for that purpose, a few days before my arrival,—a piece of courtesy which I have every reason to acknowledge with all possible gratitude.

All my wishes on this point being now fulfilled, with the exception of a visit to the interior of the temple, which was evidently impracticable, I did what I could to repair this deficiency, and sent, in my stead, my valet Mustapha, who was fortunately a true believer,

and brought me the following report of the marvels of the place. But, first, I must begin by describing the narrator himself. He is a good-natured young fellow, about eighteen years old, consequently of very little experience, and in that happy age, and yet happier disposition, when every illusion is readily taken for truth, and the marvellous is just what is most willingly believed: he is moreover a good Mussulman, and a well-meaning creature, without distinguishing himself by any exaggerated power of intellect. I had given him the good advice to insinuate himself into the favour of the Lukill who accompanied him, by the present of a few piasters; this, as we shall see, did not fail to produce its due effect. I had commissioned him to count the granite columns and the steps in the tower, and to pay particular attention to every thing that occurred,—commissions which his superstition prevented him from executing in a satisfactory manner. According to his report, he was first conducted through two large folding-doors into an enormous hall, filled partly with rows of columns, and partly with groups of two, three, or four of them, and paved with polished marble. Mustapha endeavoured to count the columns, but, *as the* Lukill *had before told him would be the*

*case*, when he got beyond a hundred, he became giddy, and a higher power prevented him from seeing distinctly, so that every thing began to turn before his eyes. As soon as he gave up his design, this unnatural condition ceased. He then beheld, at a great elevation, on the wall, the wooden coffin of the negro saint, Sidi Nablal, who died the death of a martyr, while fighting in the suite of Mahomet and performing great achievements. At this grave there appears every Friday,* early in the morning, wrapped up in a long white *talar*, another saint, Sidi Achmet Ochhodder (Lord Achmet the Green), who offers up his prayers before other men are awake. The Lukill had respectfully contemplated him more than once in the early dusk of the morning, and had seen him appear and disappear, without announcing his presence by any kind of sound.

So far all had been matter of wonder and admiration for Mustapha, but now came a more severe trial. There are three magic columns of dark granite placed in a corner, and standing before a small door. Whoever is in favour

* Friday is the sabbath of the Mussulmans, because the Hegira began on a Friday, the 16th of July, in the year 622.

with the Prophet passes easily through to open the door, even though he were of the thickness of an elephant; but the slenderest child is caught fast between them, if not firm in its faith to Islam, or if Mahomet bears it a spite on any other ground. Many here turn back, and leave the menacing columns untouched; but whoever wishes to go farther and see the objects of chief veneration, must submit to the ordeal, in which, according to the Lukill's account, many a sinner is said to have lost his life, and which, only a few weeks ago, had so far proved fatal to a young man, that he was dreadfully squeezed, and was not able to get free again till he had made a multitude of vows of pious *largesse* and reformation. But he who passes safely through, independently of being invigorated for life by the sight of the relics, acquires a degree of religious dignity, something like that of the pilgrims to Mecca. My first Hamba, a wild fellow and a bit of a scapegrace, accompanied Mustapha; and, though he might be a firm believer, could have little confidence in his own purity. This man was so terrified by the Lukill's account, that he began to weep and to utter every imaginable form of prayer, before he ventured to comply with the invitation boldly to attempt the

passage: nor did he get through without remaining for a while in great anguish, jammed in between the pillars; and, according to his own account, it was not without suffering severe pain that he made good his passage. Mustapha went to work with no less dread, but found the execution of his design a much easier matter: this may have been the effect of a clearer conscience, or because his douceur to the Lukill was three times as large as that of the Hamba.

The visitors were then conducted into the holy of holies, a splendidly ornamented cabinet, in which are preserved six metal skull-caps, formed like helmets, worn formerly by six disciples of the Prophet; also a kind of small sword, which Sidi Abdel Kader, on his first arrival at Keruan, stretched out towards heaven; commanding the sea, which at that time was close to the city, instantly to withdraw, and no longer to incommode the holy city with its briny presence; whereupon fertile meadows covered with rich harvests immediately occupied the place of the water. Here also was shown the wooden toy-sword of Sidi Akbar, the conqueror of Barbary, with which he slew more foes than the best Damascene blade had ever done before, besides va-

rious other wonders of the same kind. The cabinet suffered a serious loss some years ago, when the five steel cuirasses of the disciples were taken away by his Highness the Bey, to send them to Constantinople as a present to the Sultan. The pious wanderers next entered a spacious court, surrounded by arcades, reposing on beautiful double columns. In the centre of the court was a large cistern inclosed in marble, with six smaller ones forming a circle around it. They next arrived in a tolerable hall, somewhat smaller than the first, and then proceeded through a long double gallery to the loftiest tower, from which the *muedzin* calls the faithful to prayer. The Lukill warned them, as they ascended, to beware of any attempt like that in the hall; for a man, who, some years ago, had attempted to count the steps, had, on reaching the last, fallen down dead, as though he had been struck by lightning. You may imagine that Mustapha had no inclination wantonly to provoke a premature death. The tower seemed to him to be much higher than it had appeared when seen from without, and he felt much fatigued on reaching the top, whence he enjoyed a most magnificent prospect over the various courts, wells, galleries, and columns of

the mosque, which looked like a little town in itself.

He descended quite proudly, and was received by my whole Mussulmanish suite with perfect veneration, on account of his having so easily and happily passed through the dangerous columns. *E un santo adesso*, said my dragoman in his broken *lingua Franca*, (he had himself shrunk from the ordeal of the columns,) *e mio paura da lui.*

Keruan is supposed to be the ancient *Vicus Augusti*, but there are no ruins to be found, with the exception of an old cistern, situated not far from the mausoleum of the thrice-blessed barber. In the time of the Arabs, it was long the metropolis of their African empire, and the seat of the sciences; at present, it is famous only for its sanctity and its shoemakers, the morocco boots made here being considered the best in Barbary. Nothing can be more naked and lifeless than the environs of this town, as far as the eye can reach; and it is difficult to conceive that this province can ever have been so fertile and flourishing, as it is represented to us by ancient writers, and as it is proved to have been, by the remains of so many large cities found in every direction.

Towards evening, the governor sent to request

of me a bottle of wine, *to be used as medicine;* and the messenger, on his own part, begged for a tumbler of rum, likewise to be used as medicine: neither application appeared to me to manifest any great degree of fanaticism. At the same time, the governor wished to obtain from me a remedy for an obstinate cold in the head, from which his wife was suffering. I was at first inclined to answer, that I must feel her pulse; but on second thoughts, I contented myself with sending her *three* packets of tea, with the Hippocratic direction, that his wife was to take *three* cups on *three* successive nights, with *three* spoonsfull of lemon-juice and *three* pieces of sugar in each cup, and that during these *three* nights she was to be carefully wrapped up in *three* woollen blankets. With this recipe I began my new medical career, wisely choosing, as you see, the *juste milieu* between *Allopathy* and *Homœopathy*. I hope my European colleagues will make no objection to my prescription. I next received a private visit from the head of the clergy, who kindly repeated his approval of my excellent Mussulmanish way of thinking, and invited me to remain a little longer, as it was not right to leave the holy city so soon after having once reached it. I replied, that I was ready to do

so, if he would promise to let me see the interior of the mosque. He would not listen to this at first, but gradually he softened, and gave me at last to understand, that a considerable present to the church might procure me an admission into the first hall, but any thing beyond would be out of the question. This I scarcely thought worth the sacrifice, for a longer stay in this melancholy place was in itself a punishment, and the money might certainly be better applied: I therefore dismissed the Mollah with fair words and ambiguous expressions, contenting myself with Mustapha's account. I could learn nothing of ancient manuscripts, the existence of which might have been looked for here; probably every thing of that kind has long since found its way to Tunis or Constantinople, or has been neglected and lost. After a night, during which I was several times tempted to believe that the black and white musquitoes here had transformed themselves into scorpions, we left Keruan early in the morning. On the side which we now entered on, we found the country just as naked as the day before yesterday, but the soil was fertile and marshy, being covered with water during winter; and there is little doubt that it would richly reward any labour

bestowed on its cultivation: at present it bears only a great abundance of low thorny shrubs, covered with numerous little lilac blossoms. A quantity of field-mice, of a peculiar kind, not quite so large as rats, and here called *gird*, were running about, and raising themselves on their hind-feet, looking after us with curiosity, and uttering at the same time a faint squeaking note.

Towards noon the heat became almost unendurable, but afterwards a fresh cool wind arose, which continued all day, and very much facilitated our hard march of upwards of seven miles. We did not find a single place on our way, where we could repose a few minutes and refresh ourselves with a little milk, but the two black tents of some Bedouins, who were threshing out corn with their horses. The existence of these people in the treeless desert, in such a climate, almost without occupation, covered with dirt and vermin, and without even the rudest conveniences of life, seems almost incredible to a European; but custom conquers every thing, as I have sufficiently discovered by myself; for at the moment when I was writing this in my pocket-book, the fleas were jumping about my paper by dozens, without disturbing me in the least, or suggesting the idea of catching them; for what would avail against their legions?

The mirage seen a few weeks before had so completely led us astray, that to-day we all of us took a really extensive salt-lake for a similar illusion, which at the same time proves the correctness of the effect. Another deception is caused by the lakes, filled with water in the winter, but quite dry in the summer, the bottom of which, being incrusted with an even, dazzling white salt, also looks at a short distance like the most transparent water; a disagreeable surprise to the thirsty traveller, when he arrives full of joyful expectation of a refreshing draught, and only then discovers his mistake! During our whole march we found no fresh water, till, about a league before arriving at our resting-place for the night, we found several wells in a rock in the middle of the plain, where some Arabs were watering their cattle, and where our exhausted animals had likewise an opportunity to refresh themselves.

Nothing would be more easy than to construct a pump here, but nobody thinks of such a thing; and, with the most indefatigable patience, one of the people threw his leathern bag, about the size of a small pail, and suspended to a string, into the abyss, drawing it out again for our cavalcade alone at least fifty times, the perspiration meanwhile streaming

down his face. Not even a trough had been hollowed out in the broad rocky margin, for the reception of the water drawn up; but such a receptacle had to be formed in the soft soil, which drank up the first few pailsfull before it became close enough to allow the horses to drink out of it. The place in which we had determined to spend the night, and where we arrived at five o'clock in the afternoon, was a considerable *Duar*, in which resides the chief of all the Shechs, on this side of the plain. We were received there with great cordiality and excellently regaled. The village formed a circle, in which the tents were larger than usual; some of considerable extent, but all equally woven of coarse camel's hair. I had mine pitched a little on one side, opposite to that of the Caïd, and with my back to the wind, which had become so violent that it drove most inconvenient clouds of dust into all the remaining tents, none of which reached quite to the ground. Dates and fresh milk were placed before me, and I was then left to enjoy a few hours repose, preparatory to the principal meal. I did not sleep, but I laid myself down, and, stretched out at my ease, I observed what was passing around me. I saw several Bedouins lurking about, to observe the

strangers, who for reasons to them unknown had come from such a distance; and the children, in particular, were never tired of looking at every thing about me, though it was not done without some fear. At sunset a tall negress advanced, adorned with thick golden bracelets, and holding a basket in her hand. Her task consisted in picking up all the dung which had collected during the day in the large open space between the tents, and which was peopled by cattle of every kind: this she executed with great rapidity, and with all the readiness of long habit. I was at first surprised by so careful a species of industry, but afterwards found that in this unwooded country the dung of the cattle was required, not to manure the fields, but as an indispensable article of fuel: over such materials, mixed with a few reeds, our supper of the evening was prepared. At night a cheerful but not very odoriferous fire of this kind flamed up in front of my tent, and half a dozen Bedouins in grotesque habiliments laid themselves around it for my protection: their monotonous song at length lulled me to sleep.

When I awoke in the morning at about ten o'clock, the Caïd, with the whole population of the *Duar* in his train, stood before me, and asked whether I would be pleased to

breakfast, pointing at the same time to various dishes of enormous dimensions, which were coming in from all sides; for not only he, but several of the neighbouring Shechs likewise, had very hospitably contributed the materials for my repast. After we had tasted some of these dishes, the remainder were given up to the tribe, all of whom, I believe, participated in the meal. When it was concluded, the Caïd most obligingly requested, that on the ensuing night he might be allowed, with a few of his confidential men, to serve me as a guard; and though I gratefully endeavoured to decline the offer, I found it impossible to dissuade him from his purpose. I believe the precaution was altogether unnecessary; for upwards of fifty dogs surrounded the village, without a single moment's interruption to their barking. One dog would probably have hindered me from sleeping; but where there was such a multitude, the disturbance was soon unnoticed. It seemed as inevitable as the howling of the hurricane or the ocean; and I believe that if the row had suddenly ceased, I should have awoke immediately.

The Caïd was again the first to bring me his *salam* on the following morning. He had crouched down by my side on the carpet, and

one of his people stood by him. Suddenly I saw the attendant fling himself upon his master, push him on one side, and then stamp on the ground with his heavy slippers. The Caïd had unwarily sat down by a large scorpion, and the reptile was just on the point of stinging his naked leg: the same might have happened to me, for my mattress lay merely on the carpet; and several large beetles had, during the night, been attracted by the warmth of my couch. On the other hand, however, I was this time spared by the horrible musquitoes, to my mind the most abominable of all vermin. It is singular, that beyond Keruan as far as Sfax and the sea-coast scarcely any horse-flies are met with, which on the other side of the holy city abound to such an afflicting extent. On this occasion it occurs to me, that in an English book, *On the Wisdom and Goodness of God, manifested in the Creation of Animals*,—I at length learned the real purpose and utility of flies, gnats, fleas, bugs, lice, and other vermin of the same description. The insects that sting animals are created, that by their importunities they may prevent the cattle from eating too much in the meadows, which might otherwise occasion serious indigestions; but the man-tormenting insects—the amiable

musquitoes, for instance—operate as direct surgeons; for, by their gentle and scarce perceptible phlebotomy, joined to a very perceptible irritation of the skin, they perhaps (really the author is too modest, to make use of an expression of doubt) they perhaps destroy many a latent morbidity in the system.* I, for my part, am convinced that God knows best, and shall not presume to measure the ways of Omnipotence by the standard of our petty human ideas. Do we not see at the first glance, that the fundamental law by which all nature round us is maintained, is in complete contradiction with our own moral code? All that lives, exists only by the destruction of other life, and is preserved in a perpetual circle by mutual immolation. The condition of life is the perpetual murder of other lives, whether of animal, vegetable, or other kind. Nature seems altogether based on selfishness, and even society requires only that individual should be subordinate to collective selfishness. Our greatest philanthropists have not dreamt of prohibiting

* An English commercial traveller, exploring the continent for a great house engaged in the dying business, wrote from Elberfield: "This place is situated in a magnificent valley, and is evidently intended for us by Providence as a Turkish-red-cotton-dying establishment."

the slaughtering of oxen, nor have they any idea of emancipating the animal slaves: he who would love all things must take to his bed, lie down, and die: he may find his account in heaven, but certainly not on earth.

In this terrestrial republic of various interests, gadflies and musquitoes are, no doubt, bent on maintaining their selfish rights as well as the rest of us, and how could it well be otherwise?

To return to the scorpion. They do not here consider its bite to be very dangerous, but it is always very painful. The only remedy applied is immediately to rub the wound with oil, and continue to do so till the pain ceases. European physicians order the wound to be cut open, and spirit of sal ammoniac to be dropped into it; to this, they occasionally add bleeding, which likewise effects a cure; but the scorpions are said to be more venomous in Tunis than here.

Accompanied by the Caïd and a numerous escort, we set off at nine o'clock, having only a short day's journey to El Gem, the Thisdrus of the Romans. Here stands the celebrated amphitheatre, which neither Shaw nor Noah can have seen, since they describe it as circular, whereas it is oval like all the rest: it

consists of sixty-four arcades, and probably there were once four tiers of columns, though now there are only three. In circumference it can fall very little short of that of Verona, which, after the Coliseum, is, to the best of my knowledge, the largest that is known. This of Thisdrus is supposed to owe its foundation to the elder Gordian, who was here proclaimed emperor. The greater part is still preserved, and its appearance is in a high degree imposing; though some fragments are daily carried away by the inhabitants of the place, as may easily be seen by the white colour of those stones whose neighbours have recently been broken away. The interior space we found filled with rubbish to the depth of twenty feet; and of the seats, which were twice intersected by a broad free passage, communicating by arches, thus forming three graceful divisions, not one remains. Neither is there any thing left of the *vomitoria*, and their stairs: of the latter, the foundations are in many places extant, so that here and there it is possible with some trouble to climb up to the upper story.

In each arcade of the building such a staircase is found. Mohammed Bey was the first under whose government the destruction of the

building commenced. During a revolt of the Arabians, this amphitheatre was successfully used as a fortress, when the upper story was almost entirely demolished, for the purpose of throwing the stones down upon the heads of the besiegers. When the insurgents were reduced, the Bey ordered four arches to be blown up, that no similar use might at any future time be made of the building. Since then it has been continually used for the fragile buildings of the surrounding inhabitants, whose wretched town, together with four or five marabuts, has been built at the foot of this colossal work of the Romans, which has been made to furnish the greater part of the materials. We may safely predict, that in one or two centuries, if this course be continued, not a vestige will remain of one of the proudest monuments of antiquity. Its former splendour seems not to have been inferior to that of other buildings of the kind, which have been preserved: it is built throughout of square stones of equal size, in a noble and simple style. The columns are all of the same order, a mixture of the Doric and Egyptian styles, and varying only according to the dimensions of the different floors. The capitals are adorned with flat lotus-leaves, without any execution of the fibres, (as, for in-

stance, in the acanthus of the Corinthian order,) which suits extremely well with the imposing character of the whole. Whether the upper story, of which so little is now preserved, was perhaps only an *attica*, or whether it was surmounted by one, cannot now be ascertained; nor, whether supplied by the great aqueduct which led from Caraga to this place, it may not at times have been used for *naumachiæ*. In the centre, where a hole has been dug in the rubbish, a walled opening has been found, mentioned also by Shaw, who supposes it may have served as a support to the shaft, to which the awning was attached, that served to protect the spectators in case of bad weather: but it has since been discovered that this opening communicated with a broad water-conduit, which, the natives firmly maintain, reaches uninterruptedly as far as Susa, a place ten French leagues hence. On a further investigation of the ruins, the Arabs, of whom at least fifty accompanied us, showed us a marble statue, concealed under a heap of dung: it was somewhat larger than life, without head or feet, but the remainder well preserved and well executed, particularly the folds of the drapery. They have occasionally dug here, but the works have never been well conducted; still many interest-

ing objects have been brought to light. Gold and silver coins, engraved stones, earthen lamps, and the like, are daily found; and as the whole plain is covered with the ruins of the ancient Thisdrus, there is no doubt that still greater treasures may be discovered, not only here, but in many other places in this part of Africa, which have scarcely ever been visited by a European, and then but very cursorily. Much as the interior of the amphitheatre has been injured, the appearance from without would lead one to believe it in complete preservation, particularly from the side on which the great breach is not perceived. The absence of the fourth story scarcely strikes you, being broken off nearly every where to the same line. The building appears never to have been completely finished, for over the lower arches some sculpturings are observed on the key-stones, while others continue rough and unworked. I calculate the length of the whole at four hundred and fifty feet, and the breadth at upwards of three hundred: an exact measurement is difficult, owing to the many heaps of rubbish.

The soil about El Gem is cultivated only to a very limited extent, but might be made productive: its excellent quality is shown by the appearance of the gardens, where the largest

and soundest olive and other fruit-trees are to be seen; while close at the side you see nothing but a dreary waste, owing to the want of care and irrigation. Thus the contrast between the former flourishing condition of these districts, and their present almost incredible decay, is chiefly owing perhaps to the destruction of all the aqueducts and reservoirs which the ancients were so careful to keep up; for without water, the dry soil of this climate, however fertile, can never reward the labour of the cultivator, nor produce any thing spontaneously but thorns and weeds. Some districts, which form an exception to this rule, and of which I shall speak hereafter, offer a real phenomenon in their way.

The heat of noon was so oppressive, that I wished to defer the visit to the other objects of antiquity for the sake of a few hours' repose, and accordingly directed my steps towards my quarters; but here matters looked ill. After many difficulties, they had given up to us a miserable chamber, but refused every thing else: the Shechs were not to be seen, brought nothing of what was required, and our servants had even been obliged to use force to obtain water from the well, to fill our pitchers, the people calling out to them that their water was not in-

tended for unbelieving Christians, and attempting to drive them away by pelting them with stones. This fit of intolerance in El Gem had, I believe, been occasioned by the presence, a few days previously, of a worthy protestant missionary from Tunis, who had perhaps been too zealous in his endeavours to impress a few Christians, or had excited alarm by his Bible dealings. The natives had given quite a new turn to his trade, by obtaining his mule, his baggage, and his stock of Bibles, on the most reasonable terms,—namely, by stealing them. This circumstance, it is not to be denied, might have been attended with salutary effects; for the Scriptures in the Arabic and Hebrew tongues had at least got into the hands of the respective Jews and Heathens for whom they were intended, but then the ass and the worldly effects had been taken also; and besides, I do not believe that conversions on these terms enter at all into the views of the pious association. Fortunately, our friend, by menaces of heavy vengeance, and by making the Caïd responsible for the theft, succeeded in recovering all the stolen property; but he lost no time in shaking the dust from his feet, and wandering farther.

We resolved to follow his example; after

resting a while, to see the remaining ruins; then to ride on two leagues farther and encamp for the night at Rugga, the ancient Caraga, where there is a marabut and a Bedouin camp. During the short siesta, they brought me all kinds of antiques for sale; but there were few objects of value among them, with the exception of a beautiful, well-preserved medal. On one side was an excellent picture of Cæsar, more characteristic and more agreeable to my conception of Cæsar than any I had before seen; on the other side was represented the god of war, with the inscription—*Mars Victor.* This was the more interesting, as Cæsar himself was encamped a few days at El Gem when engaged in the war against Scipio's army. For a few piasters I obtained this treasure, which I would not part with again for a large sum. A short time afterwards the Shechs appeared. A Bedouin chief had accidentally arrived, and frightened them by the prospect of the punishment which inevitably awaited them, if I complained to the Bey of their conduct; at the same time telling them of the consequences to the Caïd of Sauwan, on account of similar ill-treatment of the Sardinian consul. They now humbly entreated me not to afflict them by my departure, busily bringing in sheep, milk, &c., more than we required. I

would not, however, allow any thing to be accepted, and dismissed them with severity, punishing them for their inhospitable reception, by filling them at least with apprehension.

Our time allowed us only to devote an hour to the examination of the other antiques, consisting of the remains of a few temples and of a number of private houses. In one place we found, half-covered by the ground, the trunk of a fine colossus, and the shafts of several magnificent columns of costly variegated marble, one of them three feet in diameter: all these might be taken away merely for the expense of carriage, which, however, would not be inconsiderable. To convey the statue of Sfax, the natives required five hundred piasters, or about one hundred and fifty Prussian dollars, and one of the columns might perhaps cost three times as much; but any one having a ship there at his command, or living on the sea-coast, might still make a profitable acquisition.

The sun was already gone down, when we arrived at the marabut of Aulàd Sidi Hàssan Ben Elhash. This is likewise a holy place, and an asylum for every criminal who succeeds in reaching it. As long as he remains there, no one can do any thing to him, but he must not

venture over the border line. We found here a white-bearded old man, who, in consequence of having committed a murder, had been living with the Arabs of the marabut for many years, and seemed perfectly reconciled to his lot.

I was not a little surprised, on my arrival, to find the *Halifah* (the lieutenant to the Caïd) of El Gem, who had hurried on before, unknown to me, and now came to salute us at the head of the other Bedouins. He did all he could to put me into good humour; and on my praising his horse, a grey of purer Arabian blood than is usual here, he immediately offered it me as a present. I replied, that it was not customary with us to receive such presents from inferiors; but I added, that he need be under no uneasiness; that I would forgive what was past, since I saw they repented; and that the Bey should know nothing about it. This was all he could wish for; still he continued *aux petits soins* towards me and my whole suite, until my departure on the following morning. On my asking him some questions again about his horse, examining it with evident pleasure, for it was really a magnificent animal, he again urged me to accept it, and I had much difficulty in declining it; for

which, no doubt, he left me all the better pleased, galloping away on his courser at full speed. He had before told me, that he once made thirty-five leagues on that horse in a day. We found here a number of very superior animals, and of a nobler race than those seen at Tunis; but still they were not of a truly beautiful and ideal form.

The Bedouins themselves, however, are to me much more remarkable, as well on account of their expressive forms, as of their frank and dignified bearing, which never shows a trace of any thing vulgar, awkward, embarrassed, or clumsy, displaying an antique grace in all their attitudes and movements. The more I associate with them, the more do I begin to agree with the opinion of M. de St. Léon, on the subject of the original man. With another creed and form of government, these tribes would soon leave us Europeans far behind; for all Christian governments, whether they will or no, are advancing; but those of Asia essentially stationary, and their prescribed forms constrain men into the yoke as long as they endure.

I must here mention a little trait of Arab address. While they were arranging my things, I walked about the camp, and was just on the point

of entering a large tent, when the Shech and another, who were sitting in front of it, jumped up, and, each taking me gently under the arm, led me a few steps away from the tent: the Shech then smiled and pointed towards the sky, as if he would have shown me something there. The other Arab, meanwhile, had run off to fetch my dragoman, who thereupon explained to me, that I had come too near the tent of the women, which no stranger was allowed to enter. Was it possible to put me off more politely, and at the same time more adroitly? To console me, probably, for not having seen his women, the young Shech afterwards, by star-light, paraded some of his best horses before me, and then dashed at full speed over holes and amid heaps of stone, returning towards me with graceful leaps. For a large grey horse, extremely powerful but very ugly, he had lately, as they told me, refused eight hundred piasters, a very unusual price in these parts.

The colonel and the mamaluk rode on, early in the morning, to deliver the letters of introduction in Sfax, and to prepare our quarters. I made a lateral excursion to the ruins of Caraga, where there are two large Roman cisterns, nothing inferior to those of Carthage

and Utica, but of quite different construction. Both are circular, the vaulted roofs resting on lines of columns intersecting the circle, and connected by arches; the whole built of free-stone. Though very little injured, they are more than half filled with rubbish, which evidently must have been intentionally conveyed thither; as it is not easy to conceive how it could otherwise have got there. These cisterns, it is said, formerly supplied with water, not only Caraga, but Thisdrus; and certainly they are large enough to do so. We fired off a pistol in these subterranean vaults, the report equalling that of a cannon, and then crept out into daylight again through the opening broken in the side. We had no time to lose, having before us a day's journey of eight German miles, and it was already past nine o'clock. With my mule, which the horses keep pace with only at a smart trot, I can easily go one of our post-miles in an hour; but on so long a journey, it requires a few hours' rest on the way, and we knew that the gates of Sfax were closed at seven o'clock. Not far from the cistern was a hole, in which lay the trunk of a female statue of remarkable beauty. Strange to say, a deep and narrow opening had been made in the left breast, in which a colony of ants had formed a

settlement, which produced the revolting effect of a dead body devoured by worms.

We had never yet passed through a more melancholy country: it was worse than the desert; for the singed and stunted olive-trees, scattered here and there, which stood like so many birch-brooms, combined with the deep sandy soil, partly covered with innumerable small stones, without a single hill or any other kind of variety, produced an impression of extreme desolation. The only living object we saw was a gigantic tarantula, whose disgusting appearance harmonized perfectly with the country. I caught it for my friend the naturalist in Bamberg, but afterwards lost it again through the negligence of one of my people. We afterwards found, among some filthy weeds, the recently cast skin of a snake, five feet in length, but already too much injured by the ants to be of any value. While we were dining under a parched olive-tree, we were joined by some Arabs travelling on horseback, who without ceremony claimed our hospitality; and, as soon as they had laden themselves with the remains of our meal, they pursued their route without halting. Shortly afterwards, we perceived that they met a man with an ass carrying figs, which he was taking from Sfax,

to sell in the market of Keruan, and of which they bought some. Immediately one of them turned back, and brought us half a dozen of the finest, in return for our liberality to them.

We were still sixteen *miglie** from Sfax, when, in the midst of an unfathomable depth of sand, we found our carreta had a wheel broken, and the horses enjoying themselves in a neighbouring stubble-field. This was a most disagreeable accident, for no assistance was to be had except from the town. I left my secretary, with the rest of the escort, to protect our baggage, and pushed on with the dragoman and Mustapha. The road soon assumed a different and almost European character, for it was straight, of equal breadth, tolerably even, and regularly inclosed between ditches, with an uninterrupted line of gardens on each side; the soil thrown up out of the ditches, when planted with Indian fig-trees, forming excellent and solid fences. This sudden contrast between a high state of civilization and

* The *miglie* in these countries are very arbitrarily measured, but on an average are pretty nearly equal to a Russian verst. (The Russian verst is equal to about two-thirds of an English mile.)

total neglect is of frequent occurrence; and it is generally not the soil that changes, but the degree of care bestowed upon it. Even in the dreary waste which we had this day traversed, we found occasional spots, where the dark colour of the ground announced the presence of water at a trifling distance from the surface; and to judge from the general formation of the subsoil, artesian wells might probably be sunk in all parts of the country, with the most brilliant success. I am surprised that none of the European speculators here have ever acted upon this idea.

As far as the eye can reach, Sfax appears surrounded by gardens, the number of which, as I had afterwards an opportunity to ascertain from official reports, reaches the almost incredible number of fifty thousand; of which, fourteen thousand are joined to dwelling-houses, and more than thirty-five thousand are without. Independently of other fruits, upwards of six thousand hundred-weight of almonds, and two thousand hundred-weight of pistachio-nuts, the produce of these gardens, are yearly exported. The trade of Sfax is decidedly flourishing and on the increase. Independently of oil, wool, and fruits, which form the staple commodities, the various treasures of

the Gerid,—partly natural products, such as dates, henna, ostrich-feathers, natron, honey, excellent wax, &c.,—partly manufactures, as soap, the finest bernoos, stuffs formed of a mixture of silk and wool, variegated blankets, plaited rushes, remarkably durable earthen vessels from Gherbi, which are not made of so large a size in any other place, and several minor articles,—find here their chief market.

Immediately before the lofty walls of the city, we rode through a large open place, where hundreds of men, horses, and asses were busily employed threshing corn. This was effected not merely by the hoofs of the cattle, but also by a kind of carriage with twelve or sixteen broad rollers under it, drawn by four horses harnessed abreast, as in a triumphal car, and proudly driven round the circle by the charioteer perched up on high. The chief inconvenience of this system of threshing is, that the straw is completely destroyed. At the gate we found the interpreter of the Neapolitan vice-consul, Don Angelo Advocato, to whom I had letters. Here also I was received with that kindness and hospitality, of which I have already so often had occasion to make honourable mention; and, as the Caïd was not at hand, M. Guetta, a very jovial Israelite

from Trieste, offered me two rooms in his house, where, surrounded by some of the little comforts of home, I reposed quite at my ease after the fatigues and privations of the journey. M. J—— was not destined to participate in all these delights till the following day; for when he arrived at Sfax, with the people I had sent to his assistance, he found the gates shut, and had to spend the night under the canopy of heaven. It is a remarkable fact, that, on this occasion, the horses had travelled forty leagues without a drop of water, as none was to be had after leaving the Arab camp, until their arrival at the city gates.

My original intention was to have made this the term of my journey, and to have returned by the direct road over Susa to Tunis; but, finding myself so much better than I had expected, and having so valiantly endured heat, fleas, and Arab fare, I resolved, if possible, to see the whole kingdom, and for that purpose sent a courier to the *Bardo*, to request a more extensive *Amrha* and a more numerous escort, the latter being indispensable, owing to the marauding tribes in the interior. This obliged me to make a stay of several weeks in the neighbourhood. A part of the time was

consumed in writing or in making little country excursions, and the remainder was devoted to a journey to Susa.

I took much pleasure in visiting the gardens. Here the phenomenon is again witnessed, of nearly every kind of European fruit-tree, figs, almonds, olives, pomegranates, the most beautiful grapes, and even flowers, growing luxuriantly in a deep sand, which of itself would produce no kind of vegetation, and this with scarcely any rain, and without watering;—while the thermometer in the shade is ranging between 25 and 30 degrees (90° and 100° Fahrenheit). I am at a loss to account for the possibility of such a degree of fertility. The general productiveness of the kingdom is chiefly attributed to the quantity of salt and salpetre contained every where in the soil, and which gives, at the same time, such a disagreeable brackish taste to the water of so many rivers and lakes. Still the impregnation of the deep sand with particles of salt can scarcely suffice to explain the extraordinary luxuriance. The apple and pear trees were literally bending under the weight of their burden, as in the most fertile districts of the Rhine; and, what is not the case there, every visitor is here allowed to pluck as much as he

likes. Our Mussulmans were so unbounded in abusing this indulgence, that I thought it my duty to restrain them. Oranges only cannot be made to thrive in this parched soil. On the other hand, a grove of palm-trees shades the gardens. These trees do not indeed produce ripe fruit, but a very cooling and agreeable beverage is extracted from them: this ferments in about four-and-twenty hours, and is then used for the fabrication of a strong and intoxicating liquor. The liquid is obtained, not like our birch-juice, by incisions in the trunk of the tree, but by the more ruinous process of cutting off the entire crown, when the juice continues to exude for months. The tree itself is destroyed if the juice is allowed to run out so long; but while it runs, fifty quarts a day (Berlin measure) is the average produce. If the tree is to be preserved, the wound must, after a short time, be carefully bound up, whereupon the trunk continues to grow, forming a broad smooth ring in the place where it has been cut. After a few years the operation may be renewed, and I have seen trees of a great height, on which five or six of these rings could be distinctly traced. In its fresh state the juice is called *Lägmi;* when fermented and converted into a spirit, *Bocka.*

In the Caïd's garden we found some beautiful exotics. There were large pepper-trees, with their finely pointed and pendent foliage, producing a most striking effect: also a kind of dwarf palm, often seen in our hot-houses, and here called the palm of Christendom; with us it never blossoms, whereas here it bears one of the most beautiful flowers, two feet high and more than half a foot in diameter, formed by a multitude of small white calices. The jasmine here, quite different from ours, has nearly the same and quite as powerful a scent as our tuberose, so that a very small bouquet is sufficient to perfume a room for several days. The essence of jasmine made here is considered the best in the world, and forms by no means an inconsiderable article of trade in the east.

On my return, this day, from my promenade, I found two Moors at M. Guetta's. They had just arrived from the Soodan, where they had penetrated to within fifteen days' journey from Tombuctoo, to purchase various articles of the country, particularly gold dust. I bought some of the latter, which is very inappropriately denominated gold *dust*, since it consists rather of little jagged fragments, some of them large enough to be worth a *louis d'or*, but for the greater part of about the size of a

pea or half a pea. These people wore handsome sandals inlaid with feathers, and embroidered shirts of neat workmanship, which they had purchased in the country they had visited. They had proceeded fifty-two days' journey, but had observed so little, that it was impossible to obtain much information from them. They praised very highly the horses of the interior, which the natives value at extravagant prices, and will not allow to be exported. Since the murder of Laing, with which they were acquainted, and which is here still attributed to European intrigues, no European has entered those districts.

Mr. Blanchenay, the English consul, a most agreeable and worthy man, whose politeness towards me was uninterrupted, gave me an interesting account of a prince from Morocco, who had arrived here by sea two months before. His intention was to have performed a pilgrimage to Mecca, but, being deterred by the appearance of the plague in Egypt, he had returned to this place: He had several horses with him, and among them were two, than which Mr. Blanchenay maintained he had never seen finer; they were from the interior of Africa, not from Morocco, and probably of the Tafilet race, already frequently mentioned;

86225

their character varied altogether from that of the Arabian, for they were sixteen hands high (English measure), strong-boned, and of remarkably beautiful and regular form; their necks were long and their heads small; and they were so vicious, that though six years old, they had never been mounted by their owner, but had only been led by the hand, and then they were held in check with great difficulty. Mr. Blanchenay doubted whether he had ever seen, even in England, a more strongly built hunter, certainly none of full blood. The prince, for particular reasons of his own, offered one of these horses to the Caïd for fifteen hundred piasters, which we should consider a very low price, but which the Caïd thought too high, probably because he feared he might be obliged to make an involuntary present of it to the Bey. How much I regretted not to have been here! The introduction of such a stallion might have proved an epoch in the history of our studs, and an opportunity for such an acquisition may seldom occur again. The prince had many articles of value with him, and being detained by the governor an unusually long time, he began to entertain apprehensions as to his safety. Under the pretext of going to Tunis, he suddenly left Sfax with

his whole train, since which nothing has been heard of him, though he is supposed to have returned to his native country by the difficult and dangerous, but most direct road over Keff and Constantine.

One of the most agreeable amusements here is the fishery in the sea, which has many peculiarities. As there is a tolerably strong ebb and flood at Sfax, the latter is used for this purpose. The water on the coast is so shallow, that a man can wade out for about half a league into the sea, in which an enclosure is made, in the form of a semicircle, by a kind of fence constructed of palm-branches stuck in the sand. Within this fence, at intervals of about a hundred feet, are nets and large baskets, to which the fish are led by a kind of lane, while anxiously in search of an exit. As soon as the ebb-tide begins, some fifty men jump into the sea, and commence a regular battue, beating the water with broad shovels, and so driving the fish before them. When they have nearly reached the fence, the boats row conveniently along on the other side, and receive the contents of the nets and baskets. We seldom caught large fish, but continually all sorts of little monsters, as, for instance, electrical flat-fish, the mere touch of

which benumbs the hand; sea-devils, with a long venomous sting ten inches in length; sea-leeches, covered all over with small bristles, like so many needles; a quantity of crabs, &c. The most delicate were then selected, and fried in the boats over a charcoal fire, or roasted in the ashes. Don Angelo, who most agreeably combined, with enormous corpulence, the usual jocularity of fat people and the facetious humour of an Italian, chiefly contributed to enliven our piscatorial repast with his tales and jests, which often kept us in an uninterrupted roar of laughter. These cachinnations, however, sometimes resounded at his expense, particularly when, on our landing, two of our people, having to carry this ponderous mass through the water, were several times on the point of foundering, which extorted the most marvellous grimaces from the delicate cargo, who, sometimes exclaiming ——, sometimes calling on Santa Maria, drew himself together like a shapeless mass, in his anxiety to avoid the unwelcome salt-water bath.

The view of the city from the sea is beautiful. The flat shores covered with their verdant gardens and palm-trees, and the walls and battlements of a dazzling white, seemed to

swim upon the dark violet-coloured water. Opposite are the two islands formerly called Great and Little Cercina, and still known to the Arabs under the name of The Kerkinas, a circumstance that tends with many others to strengthen me in my belief that the ancient Romans pronounced their *c* as we our *k*. These islands are equally flat, covered with still larger forests of palm-trees, but in other respects not remarkably fertile. The fishery which I have just been hastily describing, seems to have been carried on in precisely the same manner since the earliest ages, for Strabo relates something very nearly similar.

I found in Sfax some French newspapers of a tolerably recent date, from which I learned something of the current events of Europe, of little general interest just now; I also found the English *Athenæum*, wherein, singularly enough, I read, here in Africa, the first review, and that in *English*, of my *German* book with an *Italian* title.

On the 7th of July, I commenced my excursion to Susa, after having taken care to provide myself, in Sfax, with a field-bed, a table, and a chair, which proved of great convenience to me during the rest of my journey. Mr. Blanchenay awaited us, half a league

from the town, with his greyhounds, to run down a few hares on the way: but our hunt immediately became a *chasse monstre:* for, in the first place, we did not catch our hare; secondly, while my mule was in eager pursuit of the game, the accursed *rakabïa* (saddle) slipped under the belly of the ill-girthed animal, and threw me into the sand; thirdly, Mr. Blanchenay was thrown, and, in jumping up again, received so violent a kick from his horse on the back of his head, that he reeled to the ground several times, and occasioned us for a while great uneasiness: on being bled, however, he soon recovered. The fourth misfortune was, that Diana, a pretty greyhound bitch, who had attached herself to me in Sfax, and whose master, a French merchant, had lent her to me for the journey, sprained her leg, and continued lame during the rest of the excursion.

We dined among the ruins of Inshila. It was long since we had found so beautiful a resting-place as the cool temple in which we encamped, and which was a ruin in a double sense. The Roman freestone walls, half a foot in thickness, had been lined by the Arabs, within and without, with walls of their own construction, but of these the greater part

had already fallen again. The interior arches and columns had been torn down, and replaced by Moorish arches, that now reposed on pillars of beautiful Italian marble. These had also received many injuries; and the ground, filled, as usual, with rubbish and cow-dung, presented a singularly heterogeneous whole. The whole neighbourhood is filled with ruins, but they are of little importance.

After a few hours, we met a long procession, in which were seen several horsemen, handsomely dressed in red and yellow, and their horses painted yellow with henna: in their centre was a waggon, not much better than my carreta, in which sat a "turban'd Moor." This was the Caïd of Sfax, returning from a journey on business, and here, accordingly, I made his acquaintance. I found him a man of expressive countenance and polished manners, joined to all the dignity of oriental repose: he appeared kind and good-humoured, though they do tell some monstrous things about him. During our short interview he made me a present of a beautiful gazelle, which one of his people had just caught: I shall keep the animal till I leave the country, for gazelles make delightful pets, but unfortunately they cannot live in our climate.

In Gebibiana we encamped for the night in an olive-grove. This is a scene which every time affords me new pleasure, and indeed none can well be more animated. Here some of my people, with a dozen Arabs, are busily pitching the tent; while five or six others, crouching in the sand, look gravely on, without stirring a hand: there the emancipated mules roll themselves on the ground with cries of joy. A little further off they are ranging the horses in a long line, by means of a cord, and throwing before them the miserable broken straw by way of fodder, which the poor animals, nevertheless, attack with eagerness. On one side a diminutive fire is flaming up, at which the dragoman's first business is to boil coffee for himself and his companions. There the Colonel is amusing himself with his skittish white nag, that, freed from the bridle, is jumping about like a foal, and, with its ears thrown back, is playing all sorts of gambols. J—— throws his gun over his shoulder, in hopes of snatching a few shots; and I sit down on my carpet under a tree to take hasty notes of my experience of the day. During the night, noises of one kind or other continue without interruption, but on this occasion they became quite intolerable, in consequence of a particular

piece of civility on the part of the Arabs. They had posted two of their party by the side of my tent, to summon the faithful to prayer, which they did every hour with most stentorian voices; and one, peculiarly devout, went on repeating his orisons uninterruptedly during the whole night. They, no doubt, took me for a Mussulman, from my dress; and I had patience and politeness enough to let them have their own way, though it prevented me from closing an eye the whole night.

My escort also gives me a deal of trouble; they are not only continually quarrelling among themselves, and calling upon me to act as umpire, but they frequently manifest also an inclination to mutiny against me. It is necessary to deal in a very peculiar manner with these people,—to act at once with caution and resolution. Their own chiefs manage matters easily enough, by treating them as mere slaves, and to this end they are armed with all the necessary power and authority: but a foreigner and a Christian is an inferior being in their eyes, whoever he may be, in the same way as the most wealthy and eminent Jews are among Christians. He must, therefore, in addition to his authority, know how to employ a

more powerful lever, one that exercises universal control,—namely, their own interest. Accordingly I keep them suspended between the fear of the Bey, and the hope of a rich reward; and thus I get on nearly as well as if I were their absolute lord, without, however, overlooking any kind of neglect. But one must always keep a tight rein, which is inconvenient.

The road to Shebba, the ancient Ruspac, of which only a few traces now remain, was more barren and desolate than that of the preceding day: it was only enlivened by a new *fata morgana*, which presented to us, behind a narrow piece of water, the illusive picture of oak-forests stripped of their leaves, just as such forests would appear with us in winter.

J—— shot a fine partridge, quite different from those in our country, much larger, with black stripes on the breast, and the underpart of the wing of the same colour. My little entomological collection was likewise increased by the addition of a curious beetle. The waste land consisted chiefly of an even formation of rocks, which frequently lay bare. Occasionally there were large openings, and deep grottos filled with water; these reminded me strongly

of the pigeon-hole in Connemara, awakening agreeable recollections of dear Ireland in my mind.

This time my tent had been pitched in a garden under a large almond-tree; and before I was aware of it, a negro got upon one of the highest branches, and began, like a monkey, to pelt me with the ripe fruit. We got here the best water we had had for a long time, but in every other way we were very ill-regaled, although the Shech, as well as an Aga who resided here, sent us several dishes. These, however, had been prepared with rank fat, oil, and sugar, in a most diabolical manner.

The first object to which we turned our attention on the following day, were the ruins of Akola, close to the sea, presenting now only shapeless heaps of stones, together with a few cisterns, that can scarcely be attributed to the Romans. More remarkable are several bricked wells, eight to ten feet in depth, close to the sea, and nevertheless containing beautiful fresh water. The flat sands were here covered, to a considerable extent, with hundreds of thousands of spongy balls, which the sea throws up, as well as large quantities of muscles. Till we reached Salecto, the country appeared barren; but there again the most beautiful gardens were

seen flourishing in the deep sand ; they surrounded pleasingly the remains of a large fortified castle, of remote antiquity: apparently, a harbour was formerly connected with it, and the whole is supposed to have been a possession of Hannibal, whence, after the disaster of Zama, he embarked for Syria. With a melancholy pleasure, imagination follows the hero, who, regardless of the past, broods only over new plans to attack his hereditary enemy on some other side. It was certainly not his fault, if he found no monarch capable of turning him to account.

In Media, or Mahadia, I was very kindly received by a French merchant, M. Jonquier, to whom I had sent a letter. He and his young wife had both recently arrived, so that their family arrangements were but imperfectly made; but they ceded to me, with the most obliging hospitality, their nuptial couch, and did every thing they could to make my stay till the following day as agreeable as possible. The origin of this city is enveloped in obscurity; and even the extensive ruins of the ancient harbour, and of some fortified castles, as well as the high and spacious cisterns with the double rows of arches, into which only by means of ropes visitors are able to descend,

—all these are so intermingled with the buildings of the Moors and Spaniards, that it is now difficult to ascertain what belongs to modern, and what to ancient times. The harbour, considered to be the most advantageously situated in the whole kingdom, is in the course of being restored, and it is in contemplation to make it three times its original size, which the nature of the ground easily admits of. This shows how small a space the ships of the ancients must have occupied, this having been a considerable harbour, on which great care and expense were evidently expended; and now the little insignificant fleet of the Bey requires a thrice larger space to shelter it. Some French engineers, sent hither by the Bey, examined the ground a few weeks since, and their report is said to have been favourable. For the rest, Media is a poor place, inhabited exclusively by *Coulouglis* (a mixed race of Moors and Turks), under the immediate government of Tunis, which leads to a number of inconveniences. We could not even get a horse shod; and, without M. Jonquier's kindness, we should scarcely have found any shelter, for there was no Caïd, and the Shechs had scampered away at the sight of our Mamaluk. The environs of the town are likewise much neglected: nevertheless, twenty thousand

olive-trees are said to have been planted last year; and M. Jonquier is of opinion, that a large capital employed in the cultivation of this article would soon be doubled, land to a considerable extent, and on reasonable terms, being easily obtained from the government in this neglected part of the country. A Christian cannot, indeed, possess land here, but the affair is easily arranged by making the purchase in the name of a native, who executes a bond to the real buyer. In that case, however, it would be necessary to take Maltese labourers into pay, or to invite over other colonists, there being a scarcity of hands, and those who are here prefer the *dolce far niente* to any amount of wages: they are quite satisfied, provided they do not starve. In December, January, and February, they make their bread, two-thirds of barley, and one-third of ground olive-kernels; and this, scarcely human food, they prefer to the trouble of increased exertion. Until property is better secured, no radical improvement can be expected in this state of things; but strangers, under the protection of their consuls, have nothing of that kind to fear; and, indeed, it must be owned, that no where are foreigners more favoured. The Christian merchants, for instance, have the right to import,

free of duty, whatever tools, furniture, provisions, &c., they require for their private use, together with twenty-four milliorolles of wine annually. On merchandise they pay only three per cent. *ad valorem*, while the Jews must pay four and a half, and the natives as much as five and a half; besides which, they generally value their goods at much less than their real worth.

Every master of a European vessel has likewise the right to export, free of duty, all the stores necessary for his crew; and it is a well-known fact, that in all cases of dispute, foreigners generally get the best of it against the government as well as against private individuals. Under these circumstances, most of the Christian merchants who have established themselves here, and with many of whom I have become personally acquainted, make great profits, and in a few years frequently realize handsome fortunes, chiefly by trading in oil and wool: to this the idleness, levity, and carelessness of the population very much contribute. Whenever these demi-savages want money, they sell the fruit on the tree, and the wool on the backs of their sheep, for a mere trifle paid in advance; or, when oil is just at the lowest price, they will undertake to furnish it on the same terms at some future period; while those who

understand the business can calculate in advance, that it will then be in greater request, or have perhaps means in their own hands to effect a fictitious rise. Even on mere loans, the immense interest of five, six,—nay, even ten—per cent. per month is extorted, nor is there any law to prevent this usury; and as law proceedings are very prompt here, the lender need never fear the loss of his capital, if the debtor has any landed property. By this kind of usury, on a small scale, many have become rich enough to be able to squeeze more extensively the poor inhabitants of this land, so favoured by nature. The late sapatapa, a man who displayed great talents for administration, though he had never been out of the country, endeavoured to provide against these two evils by opening a bank in the capital, where money might be obtained on moderate interest, and a buyer was provided for the oil-crop, which enabled him, when the price rose too high, to reduce the article immediately fifty per cent. The disgrace into which he fell on the succession of a new sovereign, may, in every respect, be considered a misfortune to the country; and it is very gratifying to find, that there is now reason to believe, his disgrace is merely of a temporary nature. I have already stated,

that Shakir was sent as ambassador to Constantinople, and as his worth has since been better estimated, there are hopes, that, on his return, he will be reinstated in his office of chief minister.

No where has a land-owner fewer expenses than in this country. The farmer who occupies the land, takes upon himself all taxes and charges of cultivation, and keeps two-fifths of the gross harvest: the landlord takes the other three-fifths, free of every other trouble or expense. One man is supposed to be capable of planting a hundred olive-trees in a year, including, of course, the cultivation of the ground. In five years the tree begins to bear, and after ten years yields a full crop. The olives are increased, as the willows with us, merely by planting slips; and, owing to the heat and drought which prevail during summer and autumn, it is only in April that they can be put into the ground. They are planted in rows, twenty paces asunder, and the ground which they overshadow is used for growing barley and other kinds of corn. A quick sale for the oil has never yet failed.

M. Jonquier, who has travelled much, and who resided for a long time in the different states of South America, of which, as a re-

sidence for strangers, he gave me a most delightful account, favoured me with many amusing details of these regions. In order somewhat to relieve the dryness of the preceding remarks, accept the following little anecdote of Brazil.

On the last three days of the carnival (*dias d'intruda*) a custom prevails in Rio Janeiro for people to throw as much water at one another as they possibly can. Whoever declines any share in the fun, must carefully close every aperture of his house, while those who choose to join in it throw their doors and windows wide open. At the latter, the practical jokers post themselves, to fire off their respective liquids on the passers-by; who in turn, without any regard for rank or person, enter the houses, and retaliate without any ceremony. The dandies and fine ladies use thin hollow balls of wax, or pretty little syringes, both filled with perfumed waters; but sometimes the jest assumes a coarser character, and concludes with a general shower-bath. No one was ever more active or more unrestrained on these occasions than Don Pedro himself, who never failed to attack every open house. He possessed remarkable strength, and was fond of displaying it: during the last carnival of his

reign he gave an amusing proof of this, of which M. Jonquier was accidentally an eye-witness. The emperor was on his way to his country-residence at St. Christopher, there to make an evening party on the water. He was standing negligently in a boat between two of his chamberlains, glittering in full court uniform, and slowly approaching his vessel amid the loud acclamations of the people. Suddenly, without any warning given, he was seen to seize the two luckless chamberlains, to his right and left, and, grasping them by the collar, he plunged them up to their necks into the sea, in honour of the last of the *dias d'intruda*. The shouts of the multitude on witnessing this new department of a chamberlain's office were quite unbounded; and, with the solitary exception perhaps of the two victims, every one was delighted with the gigantic force and merry humour of their liberal monarch.

I must not neglect to tell you, that I saw in the streets of Media, on my way to the Moorish bath, the prettiest negress that Africa had yet presented to my view. She had none of the characteristic defects of her race, neither a flat nose nor thick lips, but looked quite

wanton and skittish, like a fair Parisian, merely painted black.

We were so well pleased with our kind host, that it was four o'clock in the afternoon of the following day, before we followed our suite, whom I had sent on in advance. The scenery, during the first third of our way, continued as before; but as soon as we had passed the insignificant ruins of Thapsus, where there is nothing deserving of attention except the remains of the ancient mole, we beheld Tubulba, surrounded by hundreds of palm-trees and verdant fields of Indian corn. Here we enter on the most fertile and best-cultivated district of the whole kingdom, combining a rich soil with an abundance of water, and this character continues to the very walls of Monasteer. The finest portions of Provence do not excel this part of Tunis. Here at length I beheld pumps, though of the coarsest kind. Over the well was erected a scaffold, something like a gibbet in appearance, with a roll over which a large leathern bucket was suspended by ropes. Two oxen drew up the bucket, which, striking against a cross-bar, turned over, and poured its contents into an elevated reservoir which was walled in. The oxen had at each turn to

be brought back to the well, and to be harnessed afresh: nevertheless, the operation proceeded with tolerable rapidity.

Backward as the degree of civilization appears which such an arrangement implies, I was surprised to find united with it a plan of irrigation far more simple and ingenious than any in use with us. Wherever it is practicable, the fields and gardens of the owner slope away from his reservoir, which is always placed as high as possible, and by means of hollow paths they are divided into a number of squares, in appearance something like a chess-board. The earth thrown out of the paths forms at the same time a kind of dyke round each square, and into these paths the water is conducted from the reservoir. If any particular square in the garden requires water, a single stroke of the spade is sufficient to make a breach in the dyke, and to admit as much of the fertilizing element as may be judged necessary.

In this manner, one man is able, in a short time, to water a kitchen-garden, which with us would occupy a dozen fellows with their watering-pots for several hours. In the fields, the squares are, of course, larger, there being

no necessity to separate, as in the gardens, the different kinds of plants, according to the greater or less supply of water which they require, the point being merely to keep the water inclosed. In both cases the arrangement answers, and therefore strikes me as deserving of imitation. Make an immediate trial on your mountain terraces, if my description is sufficiently clear to you.

For several hours we seemed to be riding through one continued garden; and the vicinity of the splendid bay, the Sauwan faintly seen at a distance, the picturesque ruins of Lembta, the multitude of pretty Moorish villages on the hills, and, lastly, at the extreme point of land, the turrets of the Casba of Monasteer,—all this formed a truly Arcadian picture, which the fresh rosy evening, the purple setting sun, and the moon, then beautifully rising along the azure vault, lent all their charms to heighten.

We arrived at Monasteer about midnight. The gates had long been closed,—a custom, founded on a silly superstition prevailing everywhere in this country, to close the gates of every city at sunset, and not to open them again under any pretext before the dawn of

the morning.* We were, in consequence, obliged to go round the city wall, which is thirty feet high, and presents a most romantic appearance with its broad battlements.

At length we arrived at a large cemetery, covered with a number of marabut-domes and with numberless white grave-stones, to an extent far beyond the reach of our view. The whole might have served as a magnificent theatrical decoration for Don Giovanni; and the deathlike silence around us, our slowly flitting forms, and the reflection of the bright rays of the moon on the thousands of dazzling tombs, produced an effect quite spectral. About the middle of this place, we found a low dark wicket in the city wall: this had been left open for us, and the Halifa of the Caïd now advanced, like a ghost, and addressed us. Our horses and baggage were obliged to bivouac on the burying-ground; but we were invited to alight, and, bending our heads, we were enabled to squeeze through a zigzag passage formed in the thick wall, the Halifa assuring us that Monasteer was the only city in which

* The notion is, that the Christians will one day conquer Tunis, by entering some evening through a gate accidentally left open.

so salutary an arrangement had been made for the convenience of persons of distinction, who happened to be delayed on the road; in any other place, he added, we should have found it impossible to obtain admission. Here, as everywhere else, I was kindly and cordially received. My host was a M. Rosso, a Christian merchant, at whose house I enjoyed the repose which the fatiguing journey of the preceding day had rendered so very necessary.

The next morning, after having taken a very luxurious breakfast for these parts, our hospitable entertainer accompanied us to the remains of an ancient harbour, remarkable on account of some singularly formed sandstone rocks lying isolated in the sea. They are pierced by a number of grottos and passages, cut with immense labour in the solid rock, and looking very much like cells of bees: the motive of this it is now impossible to ascertain. We descended into some of these caves, and fed the fish that came flocking towards the crystal basin, like so many swarms of gnats. It is no exaggeration to say, that the sea itself was bright as crystal, and it would have been impossible to have wished for a more delightful bathing place.

Notwithstanding the most powerful heat which

we had yet experienced, we immediately continued our march towards Susa; and, after the first league, the smiling gardens and plantations were again succeeded by a barren plain, with the monotonous surge of the sea breaking upon it. It was not till we were quite in the vicinity of Susa, which is surrounded also by lofty embattled walls, as carefully white-washed as those of Monasteer, that a better cultivation appeared, and that we again beheld waving in the wind the beautiful crowns of the palm-trees, the chief beauty of African scenery.

We took up our quarters at the house of M. Manietto, consul for five or six different nations; M. Van Nyssen had recommended me to him, and I need only mention, that his politeness was in no way inferior to what I had experienced elsewhere. Accompanied by his four pretty and agreeable daughters, I ascended the same evening to the terraces of his house, where I found two palm-trees walled into the house, and throwing an agreeable shade over it during the heat of the day. The sea glittered with the most beautiful violet colour; and the city, with its minarets, rising with a gentle slope towards the Casba, reminded me in many respects of Algiers. The resemblance was heightened

at the same moment by a French march, played by the band of a regiment organized upon the European plan, and now in garrison here. Wafted by the music and the seven-league boots of my imagination, I was soon carried home, and found myself reposing in one of my favourite seats in my own park, which I soon peopled with spirits of the living, not the dead: after a while I sighed deeply, and allowed the sadly-pleasing picture, which my fancy had conjured up, to dissolve again into the air.

Susa, according to Falbe, is the ancient Adrumetum, respecting the site of which there have been so many disputes, and which Dr. Shaw removes to Herkla, twenty *miglie* farther, grounding his hypothesis, incorrectly in my opinion, upon a calculation of Cæsar's march. The ruins of Susa, placed on somewhat higher ground than the modern town, are situated in a neighbouring plantation of olives. They are remarkable, though not numerous, consisting, in addition to some insignificant remains of cisterns, of two pieces of a wall, of such immense thickness, that they look rather like two rocks fallen from heaven, than like any thing formed by the hands of man; nor is it easy to conceive

to what purpose walls of such astonishing solidity can possibly have been applied. They appear to be of Carthaginian construction, are formed into one solid mass by a cement as hard as the stone itself, and the fragment which lies nearest the road is throughout from forty to fifty feet in thickness. In the city itself, in what was once a Spanish convent, afterwards a mosque, and now a barrack for the new troops, we found several granite columns — some plain and some fluted, among which two bear traces of an extraordinary degree of antiquity; so that it is very possible they may proceed from a period antecedent to the time of the Carthaginians. In another house some old inscriptions have been walled in; these have already been made known, and I therefore pass them over.

During my stay in Susa, which lasted some time, and during which I seldom stirred out of my room, I was one day visited by a German Rabbi and Talmist, as he called himself, from Jerusalem. He was a remarkably handsome man, more clean in his dress than is usual with those of his race; and his violet-coloured *talar*, his fine brown beard, and the long ringlets falling from under his turban over his pale countenance, produced an

excellent effect. He was going to Germany merely with a view to interest some influential people there in a favourite project of his: this was to erect in Jerusalem an establishment for the education of the neglected youth of Israel; adults were likewise to be admitted to its benefits, of which, he was sorry to say, they were quite as much in want as the children.

I had a long religious conversation with him. He was ardent in his faith, and yet extremely tolerant. To my surprise, he maintained, that it was not at all necessary that the Messiah, whom he and those of his nation awaited, must be a Jew. He meant, I suppose, that he might be a baptized Jew, for he would scarcely dispense with the descent from David. If he redeemed mankind, and brought about a happier era than the present, which Christianity had not yet been able to do, it would be quite sufficient; but he would admit of no other proof of the *genuine* Messiah. Miracles, and the like, it was not at all necessary for him to perform; and the world might continue to go on pretty nearly in the same track as now.

Many of his expressions appeared to me very original. "Your religion," he said, "is

too convenient. If you obey the verse,—*Love your neighbour as yourself*, and go to church on a Sunday, you have nothing farther to do. Now this verse did not originate with Christ: it stands already in the Talmud, and is put into the mouth of a priest of the temple, of whom some one required that he should teach him the quintessence of religion in a single sentence. We also have this precept, as you see; but how many prayers and ceremonies are imposed upon us by our religion from morning till night! This constraint is salutary and necessary, for it prevents us from ever forgetting God, and obliges us to be constantly on the watch against ourselves. This is the real utility of the enforcement of frequent prayer."

"Faith," he said at another time, "is necessary before all things. How much is there in the Testament and in our other holy books, which I should look upon as useless repetition, nay, as silly and absurd, if I were not convinced that we are incapable of comprehending or forming a correct judgment of them! Either these Scriptures are holy, and the work of God; or they are not so, but the work of men: if they are the latter, then there is an end to the whole of my

religion; but if they are of divine origin, there must be some sense, though unknown to me, even in those parts which my mind is not able to comprehend. To reject one part, and receive the other, is what I dare not do;—a man must not chaffer with the Word of God."

"A very worthy man," he concluded, "one of your missionaries, whom I met with in Sfax, where he sat the greater part of the day at his door dealing in Bibles, lately appointed me to meet him at the sea-shore, that he might convert me to Christianity. We sat there a long time, and talked much together, but he could give me no satisfactory answers to my questions; and, at last, I believe we no longer understood one another."

This *naïve* description of every religious dispute delighted me exceedingly; but I admired not the less the holy zeal and intrepidity of our sturdy young champion, who defies even the chiefs of the enemy's camp to single combat.

In compliance with his request, I gave the handsome Rabbi a letter of recommendation to the powerful family of Rothschild, so zealous in the promotion of every act of benevolence: if I should one day myself perform the pilgrimage to Jerusalem, I hope to find the college

for the Jews in full activity. Rothschild must not remain behind Ibrahim, who has allowed the Christian priests to re-open the bricked-up windows of their church. This is an act of enlightenment.

On my return to Sfax I again passed through Monasteer, where by the light of the moon and three lanterns, I climbed a rock in the sea, and visited the grotto in which M. Manietto, who at that time farmed the tunny-fishery, gave a splendid banquet to Count Philippi during the fishing-season. I was sorry to have come too late by a few weeks, to be myself a witness of the spectacle.

There are three places in the kingdom where the tunny-fishery is carried on; at Cape Zebib, Cape Bon, and at Monasteer. The first outlay, including the rent paid to government, amounts every year to three hundred thousand piasters: sometimes the profit is large, but generally very precarious. The instinct of these animals is of a strange kind: every year they quit the ocean, run in between the pillars of Hercules, and, passing along the coast of Africa, make the complete round of the Mediterranean, till, after severe losses, they arrive again at their original point of entrance. The way of taking them is also curious: a plaited fence planted in the

shallow water, and right across the course which they are known to take, forces them to swim into inclosures out of which they are not able to find an exit: there they are left swimming about in the greatest trouble, until a sufficient number is collected, when a larger inclosure, ominously called the *Death-Chamber*, is opened by means of a slide which is drawn up. As soon as the foremost of the crowded fish swims through the opening, all the rest immediately follow: but sometimes the leader, as if he had a foreboding of the fate that awaited him, declines the invitation; in which case, one of the fishermen strips himself, dives down, and swims through the opening; whereupon, the fish, taking him for one of themselves, never fail to follow his example.

When there are as many victims in the death-chamber as can well be managed at once, the slide is closed, and a linen-cloth, stretched over the bottom, is slowly drawn up, which brings the fish to the light of day, where they are leisurely put to death: this is not, however, effected without some resistance. The blood of the fish streams,

*Ein Schlachten ist 's, nicht eine Schlacht zu nennen!*

No part of the fish, as they tell me, is

thrown away; even the bones form excellent fuel.

From Monasteer I took another road, which brought me back to Sfax in three days, through a monotonous, stony, barren waste, sometimes through long stunted olive-groves, the property of the governor,—a fact that sufficiently explains their wretched condition. The first night, we encamped at Xurseff, where we could discover very little of the ruins of Sursura. The next day we breakfasted about noon in the sun, the thermometer at 50 degrees (146° Fahrenheit) while the unshaded soil was so hot, that without carpets it would have been impossible to endure it.

On the third day, my dandy Hamba made himself so drunk with six bottles of spoiled wine which we had abandoned to him, that I almost despaired of getting him home alive. His *tactique* on the occasion was quite exemplary: he would dash on with his excellent horse in advance of us till he tumbled out of the saddle, and then, without letting go the reins, he fairly fell asleep. Three or four times we found him in this position; and as soon as we had roused him and replaced him on his horse, which at length laid itself down by the side of its master, the same manœuvre was recommenced.

The Bedouins are generally supposed to be very moderate: perhaps they are so when they have nothing; but, as far as my experience goes, there are no more thorough tipplers nor gormandizers either, when it costs them nothing. The food which my suite have consumed upon this journey, by day and by night, surpasses every thing that I had till now thought possible: if I had them in Europe, I think I could have made money by showing them.

During the whole of this trip, I drank nothing but milk and water, and found it agree with me extremely well, though I rode during the most violent heat of the day, and slept at night in the open air. My two companions stood it scarcely so well, but neither of them fell sick; and our repose at Sfax, where there are few fleas and no gnats, soon restored them completely.

I found at the house of my extraordinary original of a landlord, besides a costly consignment of European beer and Italian *aleatico*, (for which by-the-by the charge was none of the most reasonable,) new Amrhas from the Pacha, to the governors of all the provinces which I could possibly visit during my journey, enforced by extra commands from the minister,

to supply me abundantly and promptly with horses, camels, escorts, tents, water-skins,—in short, with every thing I might require, to gratify whatever wish I might express, and to treat me in every respect with more than usual consideration. The Dutch consul-general, through whose medium the Amrhas were sent me, wrote me, that he had been sixty-three years in Tunis, but had never seen done for a stranger what the Bey was doing for me; and I must say, I was myself as much surprised at such magnificent generosity, as I felt grateful to his highness for the favour shown me.

As I did not use all the Amrhas sent me, it may be of interest to you to see one, together with a translation: I therefore hand you one, from which you will perceive, if you compare it with the former, that my interest at court had materially increased.

TRANSLATION.

"Praise be to God!
And may God bless our Lord Muhammed,
his family and friends!

"To our magnanimous and sublime sons Soliman Ben Hayad, governor of the city of Jerbi, and to all other chiefs there.

"Peace be with you, and the mercy of God!

There will arrive with you, coming from the sea, the &c. &c., with the view of seeing Jerbi, and the antiquities of all nations to be found in its vicinity. I recommend to you to receive him well, to treat him with more than usual veneration and respect, as is due to his exalted rank.

"You will then be careful to conduct him to Gäbbes, honoured, respected, and esteemed.

"And this you are punctually to execute, without acting against it in the smallest particular.

"Our salutation from the poor before God, Mustapha Pacha Bey, whom may it please God to direct!

"The 14th of the month Rabih, the first and sublime, in the year 1251."

As soon as he had received the Amrha intended for him, the Caïd came to me, *in pontificalibus*, to bid me welcome, and to offer me whatever was in his power. On my returning his visit, he presented me with a beautiful pipe, which I acknowledged subsequently by giving him an English telescope. The father of the Caïd of Sfax is the wealthy Jelluli of Tunis, whose fortune is estimated at three millions of piasters, and who, accordingly, is considered a very great man. I found his

son's house, the liveries of his servants, and his whole establishment, upon a very fashionable footing for this part of the world. His kindness added, moreover, two pretty gazelles and a tame white vulture to my household; and these, with Diana, who on no account would leave me, often made more noise in the house than a dozen riotous children would have done; but during the week of repose that we spent here, they afforded us much amusement.

My plan was to have gone by water to the island of Jerbi, thence to Gäbbes, across the Alsibkah lake to Nefta, Gaffsa, Ferriana, Kassarin, Spetta, Keff, and so back to Tunis: but some disturbances in those districts obliged me to renounce the first part of the journey, as far as Nefta; to which I the more easily resigned myself, as my time became shorter, since there are no antiquities of any importance to be seen in Jerbi, Gäbbes, or Nefta, and the Libyan lake consists of nothing but an endless extent of drift-sand, some dry and some wet, in which the paths of the caravans are marked by the trunks of palm-trees fixed in the ground; from which circumstance this sea of sand has derived its Arab name *The Lake of Marks*. Several islands of firm soil, covered with groves of palm-trees, are to be seen in this lake: their

origin is attributed by the natives to the invasion, at a very remote period, of an Egyptian army,—a circumstance also mentioned by Herodotus. The soldiers, according to the Arabs, encamped here, and from the date-kernels which they threw away during their meal, these palm-groves arose.

Before my departure, a grand hunt was arranged, of gazelles, wolves, foxes, or hares, whatever might show itself. As the pleasures of the field, at this season, can be enjoyed only early in the morning, we all spent the night at the Caïd's country-house outside the town, where we lay down on ottomans without undressing ourselves, that we might be ready to mount our horses precisely at half-past two o'clock. Before dawn, we set off by the faint light of the stars, rode across two spacious burying-grounds, and a little before sunrise reached the place of rendezvous; a boundless plain, covered with stunted bushes, near the sea; a vicinity which the gazelles are particularly fond of.

At the end of half an hour, the Arabs, who accompanied us, discovered a troop of these animals at a distance, which we could not possibly have reached with our eyes, unless by the aid of a telescope. The necessary arrangements were immediately made;

each went in the direction prescribed to him, to outflank the enemy, and gradually surround him. When this is done, the party ride at full gallop on the game from all sides, till one of the animals breaks away, on which the dogs are let loose. Unfortunately, on this occasion two detached themselves from the troop; so that the greyhounds, which never run well at this season, divided, and, notwithstanding all the exertions of the riders, the gazelles escaped their pursuers. I was, however, quite satisfied to have seen them in all their grace and in the full display of their extraordinary speed. One young animal was afterwards shot; and an opportunity was thereby afforded me to taste the *roti*, which I found excellent. The meat is soft and delicate, like that of a very young wild boar, and the taste is between that of an isard of the Pyrenees, and venison.

Gazelle-hunting is very distressing for the horses; and as people have no idea here of training them, but often leave them standing for four weeks together, and then all at once require hard work from them, they often fall down dead on these occasions. In this way, my secretary's horse plunged headlong down a hill this day, and was a quarter of an hour

before he could recover his breath. Strange to say, immediately after running, the Arabs never hesitate to let their horses drink, in case they meet with water, without waiting to allow them to recover themselves: they even maintain that this is never attended by bad consequences, even after the most violent exertion; but that it is very dangerous, after a hard run, to let the animals return home without drinking. The water, to be sure, is always lukewarm in this country. This temperature may be favourable to horses; but to us bipeds, and particularly to Europeans, it is a complete nuisance.

In all Sfax there is not a single cellar! nor any means of cooling liquid, except by letting it down to the bottom of the house-cistern; but as the water in this is never cold, but at most cool, one can only very imperfectly quench one's thirst, which at length becomes a regular torment. I would often gladly have given a hundred franks for a pail-full of ice, if I could have got it. The grandees in Tunis procure ice from Sicily, but here such a luxury is unknown.

This, however, was my only cause of complaint against the climate, which is, after all,

less in fault than the indolence of the inhabitants. The heat is certainly more intense than in Europe; and yet, even when the temperature has been lower, I have felt it more oppressive at home than here, where it has never yet annoyed me. This, perhaps, is owing to the greater purity and elasticity of the air; but I see that upon the Europeans resident here, as well as on my companions, the effect of the heat is much more disagreeable. The general temperature in my chamber has hitherto been from 24° to 26°, (87° to 91° Fahrenheit,) and this only by carefully excluding the sun, and keeping up a continual current of air.

As neither wolf nor fox showed himself, we ran down a few hares, and were back at our quarters by nine o'clock. I was not in the best humour; for, on the way back, they had lost me a valuable shawl, and a costly English knife, which I had carried about me since 1813,—articles, that no doubt have been a source of great delight to the *honest* finder.

On the evening before my departure, my comical host procured me, at my own expense, a Moorish concert. The performers were three members of the deposed Dey of Tripoli's band. One of them was of very pleasing

exterior, and played extremely well on the guitar; the second sang like a mad bacchanal, and, Arab fashion, through his nose; while the third danced in the costume of a coquetish girl, with naked feet, which were small and pretty.

You may imagine that neither the words of the song nor the attitudes of the dance were very decent; but the whole group —actors and spectators—offered a characteristic picture. In one corner of the room sat I, with a pipe four yards in length, at a round table, on which were standing my tea equipage and two wax-lights. Opposite me, in a cool Moorish costume, i. e. linen jackets and trowsers, the colonel and my secretary had planted themselves; and at their side, on a sack of wool, in his shirt-sleeves, fisherman's trowsers, and thick shoes, our host lay stretched out at full length. Next came the two musicians, in jackets embroidered with gold, and naked feet with red slippers: each had carefully deposited his left leg on the right thigh. Further on were squatted two Maltese servants, leaning against the wall; and these, with two open doors, formed the first half of the circle. On the other side, next to me, sat five dignitaries of the city, who, in their white costume, looked like the ghosts of the bastion, and were

scarcely distinguished from the wall against which they sat; while on the fourth wall, three half-naked negroes had fixed themselves, in various attitudes; where, with their long shadows, with which they could themselves scarcely avoid being confounded, they presented most grotesque outlines at the back-ground of the picture.

Motionless, the spectators fixed their looks upon the pseudo-maiden, who was dancing in the middle of the room, where a space had been left free for her: in each hand she carried a shawl, and her dress was of black and red silk: one moment she turned about like a tetotum; then at once she remained standing still, simply moving the whole body, or parts of it, in lascivious quiverings, accompanied most expressively by the music. Sometimes a shout of laughter, or a sudden burst of applause, would interrupt the melody, while blueish clouds of smoke continually rose from the floor, joining in picturesque curls over our heads.

Here follow a few verbal translations of the unconnected dithyrambic verses sung by the quivering beauty; and I only regret that our fastidious notions oblige me to omit by far the best; but Siegwart himself cannot be more tender than the following:—

"In the whole course of my life only one moment was happy—that when love was near me! Since that fire is extinguished, life has no longer a charm for me; and I only wish that my ashes may soon be borne away by the wind!"

Another.

"When the sun rose fiery and beaming, I saw in the valley a maid yet more beautiful. I called to her with passion, but she fled! Then all the blood in my veins curdled! The morning and the evening, and again the morning, I stood motionless there, her picture alone before my eyes! Since then, no pleasure approaches me!"

The following is somewhat less sentimental:—

"O heavenly maid! houri of the blessed! In my rage I bit into thy coral lip, and sucked thy blood, till a drop reddened thy pillow: then I flung my arms round thee, pressed thee wildly to my bosom, and, overwhelmed by insupportable ecstasy, as by the lightning, I sunk down senseless in a trance. O, what enjoyment, that at the same moment seemed to have annihilated, not only the body, but the soul also!"

I wonder whether this Arab manner of courtship would edify our European fair. I will not myself be guilty of the folly of attempting to answer that question.

Living in towns and keeping quiet does not suit me at all; and as for some days past I had felt very unwell, I was the more unwilling to put off my journey into the interior to the true Bedouin country as far as Gassa, Kassarin, and Keff. After taking leave of my Sfax friends, from whom I had received so many civilities, I set off on the first of August at dawn of day: the want of halting-places and of water on the direct road obliged me to take the route over Keruan again; and it was odd enough to find our carriage, which had broken down at our first coming, still lying in the same place in the sand: to get a new wheel made in Sfax, or Susa, was out of the question, and the old patching-up would hold out no longer. I left Mr. J—— with the dragoman behind, sent forward an Arab of the escort to the Caïd, to procure mules for the transport of the baggage, and then rode on with the rest of the party. We struck into another road, somewhat less desert than the former, which we found broken up in many places by yawning chasms: they afforded a lively representation

of the desolation caused by an earthquake, but appear to be occasioned by subterranean springs, which are very numerous here, without however coming above ground. As we rode round the chasms, we came upon a troop of gazelles, who were so little shy, that we approached them quite close: I made Mustapha single out one, and follow it for some time, without bringing it once to a quick run: as if it knew that it was in no danger, and that we only wanted to look at it, the creature cantered round us and directly before my servant's horse, till it joined the troop again on the other side. One can imagine nothing more graceful than these pretty creatures in the full enjoyment of their freedom: it would be really barbarous to kill them, if their flesh were not so very delicious. I could not, however, bring myself to use my pistols, though the little harmless animal offered so tempting an aim.

At nine o'clock in the evening we reached El Dschemm, where as the baggage had not arrived, and the heat and the fleas rendered the huts quite unbearable, I was obliged, unwell as I was, to pass the night upon a carpet under an olive-tree: the dew was so heavy, that in the morning the water dripped from my cloak. After sunset the pack-asses made their

appearance ; and a little rest under a tent, cuscussu in mulled wine, and camomile tea, set me pretty well to rights again, by throwing me into a violent perspiration : to this operation the temperature in my tent was not a little favourable ; the thermometer on the table stood at 29° Reaumur (98° Fahrenheit.). On the morning after this necessary rest, we went before daybreak to the amphitheatre, and, as the sun rose, drank the health of our king on his birth-day with right good will in palm wine : in however many places, and with whatever love and respect the exalted ruler's name might be uttered, it was perhaps the first time that here, under the cloudless sky of Africa, in the midst of the sublimest memorials that antiquity has left us, (except those of Egypt,) a *vivat* for him rose to heaven. We made all our Arabs join us in our "three times three," and easily explained to them that this ceremony was coupled with a wish for the well-being of our Sultan : a small present increased their zeal considerably, and the venerable walls gave back our blessing with imposing effect. The remainder of the day I passed under the thick foliage of the fig-tree, which I had also hung round with mats, and found this resting-place far more supportable than the tents, in spite of the excessive heat.

When I am in health, I find it much easier to bear 29 or 30 degrees of heat, Reaumur, (99 Fahrenheit) even when exposed to the sun, than 60° (168°) in the shade without air: in the open air there is always more or less of a faint current, and even the strengthening effect of the light on the muscles balances in some measure the enervating influence of the heat. One great inconvenience of our bivouac was the neighbourhood of a cactus hedge, from which, although we could pluck their excellent and just-ripened figs, the wind dispersed the thorns as fine as hairs and all but poisonous: every moment we felt their pricks in the skin, which gave no small pain and inconvenience till they were removed with tweezers. The Arabs, who know nothing of such refined instruments, made use of a remedy which I saw applied with perfect success, to my great admiration: my negro had as many as a dozen of these little thorns at once in his arm, and they were all pulled out in two minutes, the operators being green flies, that are found in abundance on the cactus itself: the person who catches them holds the fly fast by the wings on the part affected, and the incessant scratching and rubbing together of the insect's legs extracts the thorns more safely and with

less danger of breaking than any other method. I doubt whether Gräfe or Dupuytren ever heard of this operation.

A swarm of wild bees from the surrounding trees also gave us a good deal of trouble: both at breakfast and dinner they swarmed around like flies: they were creatures of a very good disposition however; and some pots of sweetmeats which we abandoned to them, and which were immediately filled to the brim with hundreds, seemed to be looked upon as a satisfactory tribute for them to offer us no further molestation. A third and unusual addition to our experiences was the remarkable cry of a locust of a peculiar kind, which resounded from the leafy canopy under which we had spread our carpet. I took it at first for the cry of a large wood-bird, and there are very few with us whose note is louder: it is scarcely conceivable how an animal so small, relatively speaking, can produce so sustained and piercing a tone. I gave myself a great deal of trouble to capture the musician, but he eluded me; I saw, however, plainly enough, that it was only a locust of very moderate size.

In the cool of the evening we remounted our horses and asses, in order to pass the night with our old friend the Caïd. A storm, un-

usual at this time of year, had completely obscured the heavens before us; and whilst flash after flash of blinding lightning rent the pitchy curtain asunder, the moon gleamed peacefully in the clear firmament behind; at length, the sable mantle enveloped her likewise, and a torrent of rain, accompanied by bursts of thunder, dashed upon us. This was far from being felt as an inconvenience; on the contrary, the hot air made us welcome it as a delightful refreshment. As we reached the marabut, we saw afar off, by the glare of the lightning, our magnificent Caïd, with about twenty of his people on horseback, drawn up in regular military array, to receive us with due honour. When they saw us, the whole party dashed forwards through the darkness like a troop of wild horses. With many schalam and sbachasch-her, and abundance of hand-squeezing, we rode together in the direction of the duar, where already fires of dung flickered merrily from among the tents.

The feast was thoroughly patriarchal; and the extraordinary talent of the women here, in roasting a sheep just killed, in such a manner that the flesh in a few hours becomes so superlatively tender and juicy that one can eat three times as much of it as when dressed in any other way, belongs to those culinary mysteries

which I reserve for my favourites. The antiphagi (i. e. the uncivil critics of eating, and of my poetical description of that amusement,) are unworthy of such a revelation. However, if any one will direct to me *post paid*, they shall have the receipt gratis.

After a fatiguing march on the following day through a mild and fertile but entirely uncultivated country, I was received in the evening at Keruan by the governor (who visited me immediately) and by all my Mussulman friends, as hospitably as I had been in the duar in the plain: I had moreover the good fortune to see the doors of the great mosque open on account of some solemnity, which certainly no one wished to have profaned by infidel eyes. I had even a glimpse through the fore-temple, of the renowned hall of columns; and into the court of cisterns, surrounded by arcades. I remarked in haste many pillars of verde antique, lapis calaminaris, and other costly marbles in the court, all orders confusedly mixed together, as might be expected. A third space, the door of which was also open, was unfortunately so dark that I could not distinguish any object; and I dared not linger for a closer inspection without incurring inconvenience, if not danger.

I occupied my former house, which I found clean enough; but, in addition to my old acquaintance the musquitoes, it was now well-peopled with scorpions. We killed five in the evening, but they were not more than from three to four inches long.

In the warm season hundreds of these agreeable animals are found daily in the streets. They appear to have a particular affection for the Holy City, while in many other places, such as El Dschemm, Solyman, and Dugga, not one is to be seen. I should like to have an explanation of this singular circumstance from some naturalist; the fact is certain, and is the more remarkable at El Dschemm, because of the number of old walls and ruins, precisely the favourite abodes of the scorpions. Mr. Blanchenay told me, that he had attempted to bring a large scorpion prisoner to Solyman: when the creature was set at liberty in a limited space, he saw it tumble about as if giddy, and on the following morning it was dead; and yet, not more than half a mile from the town, these creatures swarm: they seem to be as capricious as the cholera. The Arabs go further, and maintain, that to keep the scorpions away, it is sufficient to have a stone from El Dschemm in

the chamber. I myself saw some such stones in tents at Sfax, which were kept for this purpose.

The heat drove me to the terrace, where there was a delicious breeze, and whence I had a view of the whole city in the rosy light of evening. Stretched upon the highest part, I enjoyed the dance of the gauzy transparent clouds as they passed rapidly over the face of the heavens, changing their forms every instant. I have rarely observed the play of light and shadow so various and illusory: first they assumed the form of a huge open carriage decorated with a multitude of droll caricatures, that reminded me of Scarron's strolling players: it was drawn by a single old horse, which soon changed into a nosegay, and a few seconds after appeared as an ass; then all was huddled together; and then crept slowly forth the figure of a scorpion as tall as a tower, that expanded into an island covered with low bushes, from which suddenly a smoke arose, that in a few minutes imaged forth the perfect figure of a Cerberus: rearing upwards, curling his long tail in hostile fashion, and pricking up his ears, he opened his jaws as if to bark, just as a thunder-clap rolled over my head with a hollow sound. I turned half-terrified, and stood as if rooted to

the spot with astonishment at the magnificent spectacle, that nature had silently, and unperceived by me, prepared behind my back. The mountains of Sauwan, as far as Trudsa, the ancient Mons Usalitanus, which when I was last here were scarcely discernible on the horizon, seemed now, coloured deep blue, to lie close behind the town. Every rocky point was sharply defined against a broad stripe of ruddy gold, that hung over them like a glory, picturesquely broken here and there by dark streaks of falling rain: among the mountain summits, the minarets of the city stood out yet more sharply, like miniature pictures on the illumined ground: over the variegated border of the light stripe, the heavens were of a pitchy blackness, and the storm, which seemed to have followed us since yesterday, flamed out anew in lightning through the night of clouds; while from time to time its tongues of fire streamed down the mountains like messengers of wrath.

The terraces on the houses here have no parapets, so that a walk of many hundred paces may be taken, without impediment, over the heads of the inhabitants: the forced seclusion of the women, however, renders this a forbidden indulgence, and every householder

is confined to his own limits. Curiosity induced me to transgress this law on one occasion; and seeing no witness near, I passed over the edge into a court, whence I saw a faint glimmering of light. Stretched upon the pavement, and looking cautiously down, I saw beneath me a Mussulman seated at his ease upon an ottoman, smoking, while two women nearly naked to the waist danced before him: the light of some torches gave a distinct view of the whole scene. Both of the women were pretty, and not excessively fat; I would willingly have admired them a little longer, had not the sound of a distant footstep warned me to eat no longer of the forbidden fruit. I accomplished my retreat without further delay, and in a few seconds vanished through my own little roof-door, and descended to the saloon, where the steam of a splendid supper greeted me very invitingly. The governor's cook, a fat negro, attended armed with a great staff, recommended those dishes which he esteemed the best, and did not withdraw till he saw the first bit lodged in my mouth. Here I made acquaintance for the first time with the African water-melon, a fruit which bears no kind of resemblance to that known by the same name among us, not even to that so called in the

south of France. As the camel appears to be created purposely for the desert, so the water-melon seems peculiarly adapted for the hot months in this climate: its extraordinary juiciness, its icy coldness, and quality of satisfying thirst, its exquisitely aromatic flavour, and even the beauty of its transparent, rose-tinted flesh, resembling a frozen strawberry, would entitle it to rank among the costliest fruits in any climate, and render it here absolutely priceless: it is, moreover, the only fruit which can be enjoyed without evil consequence to the health, and it even possesses a healing influence in fevers. To the virtues of the water-melon, it is here generally attributed, that the disorders of gravel and stone are unknown: on the other hand, I have never met with a good sort of the common melon in this country; and indeed, all European fruits found here are far inferior to ours; —a circumstance probably to be attributed to the very bad system of horticulture. The only exceptions to be made are, grapes, pomegranates, and gourds; these last make an excellent vegetable. In the kitchen-garden with a little more care and knowledge the Tunisians would far surpass us: even as it is, they have many kinds of vegetables, that

we are unacquainted with, various kinds of beans and lentils, garvanços, a kind of pea, which are every where to be purchased ready-roasted in the streets, where they are called Leblebby, and taste very much like hazel nuts: the pods of red pepper, when young, make a very piquant food, and all of the cucumber kind are excellent. Shaw maintains that he has seen heads of cauliflower two feet in circumference here. The inhabitants know nothing whatever of the art of retarding or hastening the maturity of fruits, nor even how to preserve them for any time. Even so early as July, lemons, a fruit that can hardly be dispensed with, were not to be procured either in Sfax or Susa, nor oranges even in Tunis.

I went, the day after my arrival, to return the visit of the governor and Kiâja; for he united both charges, and, as Kiâja, commanded thirty thousand Arabs. He received me dressed in a robe of crimson, and sitting on a kind of throne covered with a lion's skin. When I entered, he rose, seized me with both arms, and, giving me a very friendly and very hard squeeze, made me sit down by him on his wooden throne. I learned with great satisfaction, that my prescription had effected a beneficial influence on the health of the go-

vernor's consort; my medical skill was even put into requisition for the governor himself; but his malady, which was of a kind to render a painful operation necessary, was beyond my ability to heal. I recommended him to a French surgeon in Tunis, to whom I offered to take a letter, and at the same time begged the governor, on any pressing emergency, to apply directly to me: thereupon he inquired my address of the Mamaluk; and, as he could not manage my European title, he laid his hand on his breast, and, looking very graciously on me, said, "I will address my letter 'To my good foreign friend at Tunis.' "

These visits and audiences have however their comic side. The Arabs are exceedingly courteous, and five minutes are always spent in mutual inquiries, but in various modes of expression;—of how they have been in health, how they are, and how they are likely to be. All persons, even of the lowest class, call each other Sidi (lord), and are almost as complaisant and as wordy as the Russian peasants, who, I am told, stand a quarter of an hour cap in hand and bandying compliments every time they meet an acquaintance. With all, there is a most singular mixture of slavish humility, extravagant familiarity, ceremony

and barbarism, carried off with remarkable dignity, propriety, and ease of manner. When my first Hamba, the very *beau idéal* of an elegant captain of banditti, bestows a hearty drubbing on any of the people, an incident of marvellously frequent occurrence, he does it with a wild grace, that must undoubtedly give consolation to the sufferer.

From Keruan our journey began to be somewhat critical: the heat had reached an almost alarming height, and the mountain-land, which we purposed to visit, was any thing but safe on account of the disturbances in Dscherid and its neighbourhood; and, what was worst of all, there were but few places we could reckon upon for procuring water; and experience had taught us but too well, that, take with us what quantity we might, our numerous suite always found means to drink it up privately. We fared no better this time than we had done before; for, when only some miles from Keruan we reached the last spring of fresh water, three or four jars were already emptied. The watering-places resemble an encampment, where multitudes of people, and droves of animals of all kinds, are assembled; and yet they are so improvident, that they will not even construct a

roof over them; the consequence of which is, that even the freshest spring becomes warm under such tremendous heat.

My pocket thermometer, which I keep in a pocket with seven folds, in the middle division stood at 35 Reaumur, (110 degrees of Fahrenheit) in this protected situation; and the wind, though tolerably strong, glowed like the breath of an oven. Two particularly hot places in this neighbourhood bear the name of fire-pans.

We passed four times by the Mergadyl, a river whose bed was a breadth varying from a hundred to a thousand feet, which it is said is quite full in winter: at present, it is flowing in several channels, none more than ten or twelve feet wide, but very rapidly; although the water is so full of slime and sand, that it looks more like yellow gruel than water, and even the beasts refuse to drink it. We discovered in the evening, that the Bedouins, who live on its banks, and with whom we passed the night, have no other drink than this. With them this water is made still more offensive by the custom of keeping it in goat-skins daubed with resin, which imparts an additional, and, to our taste, an exceedingly disgusting flavour. The Arabs,

on the contrary, are so accustomed to it, and are so partial to water with *a scent*, that the liquid crystal of a spring, without taste, is by no means agreeable to them. On the oleander-bordered banks of the Mergadyl, some leagues from Irudsa,—on the *east*, not on the south, as Shaw lays it down—are some considerable ruins, supposed to be those of the ancient Aquæ Regiæ. We found there, overthrown and half-buried in rubbish, a large altar or pedestal with a long inscription, which I believe has not yet been made known. To decipher and copy it would have required a regular excavation, as well as more time and trouble than I was inclined to bestow. By a superficial examination we could only make out a few detached words, that conveyed no meaning.

The situation of this town, with better culture, must have been very agreeable; and, even now, in the present desolate condition of the country, the view of the temple ruins, with their multiform alternation of graceful lines, was charming. A more striking sight for us was a huge sand-spout, which we saw moving through the valley like a pillar of smoke, and well-pleased were we to be out of its reach. Close to the ruins there is an abun-

dant but somewhat salt spring, immediately around which was a border of perfectly green grass—a rare and delightful object in these parched steppes.

A naturalist would find no great booty here, nor perhaps in the whole kingdom of Tunis: there is little variety in the mineral kingdom, and that of Flora is equally poor: nothing is in abundance but thorn-bushes, which tear one's clothes at every step; even birds and insects are not numerous; but of fleas, gnats, scorpions, lizards, tarantulas, and locusts, there is great choice and variety: these last-named gentry, of all colours, were buzzing round us. To-day a huge toad and some cameleons crept across our path, and two vultures were hovering over our heads, and that was pretty nearly all we saw. There is nothing remaining of the Moorish town of Irudsa; two permanent Bedouin encampments occupy its site. In the elevated mountain, at whose foot Irudsa lay, are some famous and well-frequented baths: they are caves, like the Grotto del Cano at Naples, very difficult of access, filled with a sulphureous vapour, which causes excessive perspiration in a very short time: they lie in the middle of the mountain, and are with some

trouble reached on horseback. The arrangements for the convenience of the bathers consist of some rude balustrades, just sufficient to prevent the certainty of breaking your neck by attempting the descent otherwise; and of a grotto without, which (after receiving some trifling assistance from human labour) is destined as a lodging for the night for the guests at the bath. I could not resist making the attempt to reach the summit of the mountain with J——, although there was no path, and we were at last obliged to make a party to go all-fours.

The view from the summit, along the course of the rivers Mergadyl and Diffelah, with the sea-like plain of Keruan on one side, and the waving outline of mountain-land on the other, is not without interest, though, honestly speaking, scarcely worth the fatigue of the ascent in such heat. When we came back, we found one Hamba, with a large wound on his forehead; and the two negroes, with others to match in their necks. We thought at first, they had quarreled, but it was only their method of blood-letting, to which they had recourse for fear of a sun-stroke. Blood-letting and burning are in equal favour for man and beast, awkwardly as it is done. The

horses, who are always covered with brand-marks, are bled on the breast or on the tongue; and I have several times remarked this remedy to be very efficacious in cases of extreme weariness, or want of appetite, or in what we call dulness in horses: it appeared to change their whole temperament, and completely restore their health.

The Bedouins settled here do not appear much afflicted with jealousy; for we had scarcely reached this place yesterday, when, not only some young girls showed themselves at the openings of the tents, but two women of more advanced age, one of whom was still pretty, came among us to make a fire for our cooking, and to help to pitch our tents. Both were handsomely tattooed on the arms, hands, and feet, and had no other drapery than a large cloth, which was very frequently flung aside. As soon as I had laid down for the night, my tent-cloth was pushed aside, and one of the women (not the pretty one unfortunately) entered softly, and laid a large woollen cloth, much burnt, before my bed, with a prodigious deal of talking and gesticulation, which I did not in the least comprehend. I summoned Mustapha, and learned that the cloth had been so much injured by a piece of burning

wood which the wind had blown upon it while the owner was employed in our service, that the woman begged she might have a small compensation. As I was very tired and wished to sleep, I sent her away, telling the servant that she might come in the morning; whereupon she took up her cloth, and walked off very submissively. But I was not much the nearer my object: my tent had been pitched in the midst of a stud of asses, whose continual cries allowed me but little quiet: it was one consolation that my knowledge of natural history was so far increased, that I ascertained, beyond all doubt, that one ass does not bray like another; on the contrary, I found the greatest variety in the expression of their feelings, a whole gamut of tender inflections, frequently an expression of melancholy, of intense feeling, and almost of religious resignation to their burden-carrying destiny, which surprised me. Believe me, dear Schefer, we are unjust to animal nature, which yet, in many respects, so closely resembles our own, when we deny a soul to beasts. I for one am convinced, after listening to the notes uttered this night by the poor creatures in so plaintive a manner, that if they could only read and write, they would have progressed rapidly in

mental cultivation, and the English Missionary Society would have had more success, perhaps, with these primitive natures than with any other heathens. None else certainly could dispute for place with them, except, perhaps, those blacks whom St. Augustine converted in Ethiopia, and who, as he himself relates, used to run about without their heads!

I was scarcely awakened from the short morning sleep, which I had at last with difficulty obtained, than I saw by the first rays of the sun the woollen cloth again spread out before me, but the woman herself did not appear. This modest hint pleased me so much, that I sent her double the worth of her drapery by the Shech, though the fellow refused for a long time to take the money.

In the cool of the evening we pursued our journey, rode through the nearly exhausted Diffelah, and soon reached a plain that boasted some green shrubs and even some flowers, with the dark blue mountains lying majestically beyond. Since we left El Dschemm we had scarcely seen a tree; and this scanty hedge of wild olives, mingled with light green thorn-bushes and some broad-leaved high brush-wood, bearing a kind of fruit in clusters, was a very agreeable variety for us. Even our escort

seemed to partake our feelings; for one of the Spahis from Keruan, almost as black as a negro, with teeth like snow, which he displayed by a continual grin, regular claws on his hand, and flaming in scarlet and gold, altogether a very strong likeness of the devil, began forthwith a loud song, and by degrees the whole suite followed his example: it was music of a very peculiar and somewhat terrible kind, an opera of a very singular species, to which we gave the name of Zamiel in Irudsa.

The further we advanced, the more the plain assumed the appearance of cultivation: we saw cactus plantations again, and our way lay mostly over stubble fields, which, however, were as full of weeds as the surrounding land, for the Bedouin method of tillage requires little trouble. They never manure their fields, plough the surface very slightly, and then fling in the seed, one year barley, and another wheat; and the saline nature of the ground, occasionally assisted by the burning of the weeds, yields a very tolerable harvest, in spite of the little pains bestowed on it. The straw is kept in stacks, and the corn either in stacks or mattamors (pits). When the universal fertility of all soils, even of the clayey, is considered, and that, even when dry and split on

the surface, they are never hard, but may always be easily tilled; and yet, that immeasurable tracts lie for the greater part untouched and useless, it is impossible not to contemplate with astonishment what Tunis might be in the hands of industrious and enlightened Europeans. Where it now can scarcely reckon two millions and a half of inhabitants, at least six times as many might be fed. Algiers is not to be compared with Tunis, and will never, even with the most judicious management, afford a similar result. By the time the moon rose, we had reached the end of our day's journey, a duar, which was one of the cleanest and most elegant of its kind in Barbary: it was not constructed after the usual manner in a circle, but in two lines; the hinder for the aristocracy of the tribe, the foremost and shorter for the Shechs and the hereditary Caïd, who, with his two brothers, commands more than twenty thousand Arabs. Further off and apart was a tent for the school, for in every thing a spirit of refinement reigns; and two others destined for the reception of strangers. As the Caïd came formally to meet us, we were all in the highest degree astonished at the appearance and bearing of the man. It was one of Raphael's noblest conceptions, ani-

mated with the breath of life! Not one among us had ever seen such a figure before. Of colossal form, he was a head taller than any of the party, nor was there a feature or part that was not formed on the most perfect model of ideal beauty and symmetry; even the skin was like enamel, without a single speck, the forehead high and thoughtful, the nose Grecian and in a line with the forehead, the mouth small, the lips red, with splendid teeth; the thick and abundant beard, the broad breast, throat, neck, arm and hand, leg and foot,—all were those of an antique statue. The effect of the whole was heightened by the imposing costume: the lofty tranquillity, mildness, dignity, and affability of the countenance, the grace of motion, all invested as with a glory the apostolic majesty of his form. I saw for the first time my *idéal* of Christ realised. No Italian painter, with whose works I am acquainted, has, in my opinion, approached this work of nature in the desert. Amongst the by-standers I observed a boy of about thirteen or fourteen years of age, and equally beautiful, whom I easily fixed on as the son of the Caïd, of whom he was the image. When I announced myself to the Caïd, he called him; when the boy, a perfect youthful St. John, turning his

large eyes tenderly on his father, clung to his side, while several Arabs, with countenances full of expression, who might have figured as the disciples, grouped around us. The painter who could have transferred this picture with truth to canvass, would at once have reached the pinnacle of his art.

This evening transported me to the patriarchal ages! I was seated before my tent on a bank of turf; the air was ambrosial; the full moon illumined every object, even to the silvery grey mountain sweep in the distance, with so much splendour, that any one might have read by her light without difficulty. In the centre was the double line of tents, among which that of the chief reared itself like a dome; a garland of fires flung their dazzling light over all, and showed the horses fettered in a line, and quietly grazing; while their cheerful neigh, mingled with the barking of the numerous dogs who were running about on all sides, broke through the silence of the night. At my right hand sat the Caïd, and on the left his son, who, as curious as he was modest, examined with the simple confidence of a child of nature my watch, my spurs, and every thing belonging to me which was strange to him. Before me not less than sixty Arabs were huddled together,

three deep: next the Caïd, were the elders, the white-bearded, and the Shechs; then the men of mature age; and the children closed the group. From time to time one or other of the children changed his place for the lap of his father, when the tenderest caresses were exchanged. The paternal relation here still maintains its primitive and touching simplicity, perhaps with less of slavish submission, on the part of the children, than in the cities, but with the more fervour.

All listened with the greatest attention to my tales of Europe, wonderful as they were to them, which were translated by the dragoman. The questions they put, as well as the remarks made on what they heard, showed an acuteness, as well as a tact and intuitive politeness, in these untaught children of the desert, that I could not but admire; nothing ever escaped them that could give offence.

Once I asked the Caïd whether he would trust me with his son, with whom I was perfectly charmed, for a few years with me in Europe, where I would take the greatest care of him. He took the joke immediately, and answered, "Why not? I will give him to you with pleasure. With you or me, he will be taken equal care of."

And the young Bubaker himself, when his father repeated my proposal to him, gave a laughing assent to the proposed change. I would wager, that hundreds of our children, on a similar occasion, would have understood me literally, have run to their fathers, and drawled out a silly "No."

I prolonged the sitting as long as possible, gave the Caïd my own pipe, and had coffee served for him, his son, and the Shechs; and to the rest of the party I gave sugar, of which, not only the children, but the old people are passionately fond. When I went to bed, Bubaker paid me another visit in my tent, to satisfy his desire of knowledge by examining all it contained: he made almost too full a use of the permission I gave him, opened all the chests and boxes, in which, however, he replaced every thing with the greatest care, and fitted every trifling article into its proper place, although it gave him trouble enough to arrange things so totally unknown to him. I gave him a number of trifling articles for himself, as well as for his mother and sisters, which were joyfully received; but he was never tempted to ask for any thing. He had certainly never been taught this delicacy; it was the consequence of a happy nature, the best of all

teachers, when she will give herself the trouble.

At day-break I was wakened by a little Jew school which was held not far from my tent, and where all the children, seated before wooden tables, read aloud at the same time very rapidly, and for hours together, which made a horrible clatter, and was yet odd enough to hear. Young Bubaker gabbled diligently along with them, although he is already emancipated from the thraldom of learning, and his marriage with a damsel of ten years old, one of the tribe, is arranged for the following year. More children marry here than young people with us, and no evil appears to result from such early unions. The Caïd himself told us that he was a father while in his thirteenth year: yet it cannot be said that the climate ripens sooner here than in Italy: for example,—boys of twelve and fourteen years show their age externally much the same as they do with us.

While we were packing, the Caïd ordered his horses to be paraded before me: among them was a white mare, fifteen hands high, with a black main and tail; her size and strength made her very remarkable, and she was equally distinguished for her other excel-

lences. The Caïd mounted her to accompany us a league to the boundary of his territory. We looked long after this superb man when he bade us farewell, convinced that we should never look upon his like again.

From Keruan to Irudsa we had something like a road, that is, a number of foot-paths running together on a level; but from thence every thing like a made road ceased, and we rode across the country towards certain landmarks which had been pointed out to us through the distant mountains. We were looking for Spetla, the ancient Suffetula; steering as much as possible for a blue rocky cupola, a good deal resembling the head of a cabbage.

The plain presented the figure of a huge and almost perfect circle, surrounded by mountains partly isolated and partly connected. Towards noon we reached a river tolerably full, on whose banks,—besides the never-failing oleanders, which were still as flourishing as they were two months before, and now also bore fruit, or rather seed-vessels resembling a small cucumber,—we found bright green hollows like those in meadow-land. The river here formed an island thickly covered with a fine species of pine. This fresh and graceful little wood was peopled with a

multitude of cameleons,—harmless creatures, almost as lazy as the sloth. When one is lying on the branch of a tree, and has thoroughly satiated itself with its insect prey, which it catches with the speed of lightning with its long tongue at the distance of a quarter of an ell, they may be caught without any attempt on their part to escape. As we enjoyed our breakfast, seated upon *real grass*, I caught a cameleon by merely stretching out my hand; it was so fast asleep, that even our noisy presence had not disturbed it. When I held him by the tail in the sun, he was so obliging as to change his colour three times: as soon as I set him at liberty, he mounted another bush somewhat more quickly; but scarcely had he partially concealed himself under the leaves, than he was again asleep, a new prey for any one who pleased to capture him.

It was a real piece of good fortune to find a stream so well filled with excellent water, as our beasts had not had a drop for six-and-thirty hours. We began to think that, like the horse of the renowned Munchausen, they would drink for ever; one at least, to my certain knowledge, drank for ten minutes without stopping. We also refilled our jars.

From Irudsa we had met with no other than the detestable water before described. Our mules found great difficulty in forcing their way through the thicket with their loads; one in particular, who carried my bed across him, with the long poles of the tent pointed forwards like a lance in rest, had like several times to have heaved one or other of us out of the saddle.

After a long stay, and a fearful uproar among the Arabs, whom any one who did not know them would have supposed fighting for life or death, we forced our way through the thicket, and, passing an arm of the river, almost dried up, found ourselves in a far more encumbered and stony country than we had before travelled through. The plain was crossed in every part with rocky hills, which, partly isolated, and partly running into long dykes, assumed such regular prismatic forms, that I could compare them to nothing but artificial casts in metal: among them were frequently found chasms and rocky defiles, which were not passed without difficulty. At the back of the hills we not unfrequently met with narrow, far-stretching, isolated, and perfectly level *plateaus*, on many of which traces of ancient ruins were to be found.

We were assured by some Arabs we met

with, that there was no Bedouin camp at the time near Spetla, where we could pass the night and obtain food for our horses; and therefore we were obliged to give up all hope of reaching it to-night, and go rambling about at hazard in hopes of espying somewhere a group of the camel-hair tents of the Bedouins, which an old writer has justly enough compared to the wrecks of capsized boats. At the end of an hour, the schausch, whom we had despatched for that purpose, returned with the joyful intelligence that he had discovered a camp hidden in the corner of a valley; and thither our tribe of locusts (for such we were to the poor Bedouins) moved as fast as they could.

We found only a miserable duar, where we could get nothing but milk for ourselves, and cuscussu, without meat, for the suite; but a very tolerable provision of barley for the horses. For my own part, I had greatly improved in abstinence, and from Keruan to Keff, a journey of twelve days, had scarcely tasted meat; my usual food had been two hard eggs daily, but, on an average, I had drunk twenty or thirty glasses of milk, sometimes with and sometimes without water. I recommend the same regimen to every travel-

ler in these regions in summer: it restores one almost to primitive innocence, like a child at its mother's breast.

On the following day, we rose before the sun, and, as nobody exactly knew the way to Spetla, soon succeeded in losing ourselves in the rocky defiles, out of which it was difficult to find a practicable path for our mules, some of which stumbled. Shortly before, we came quite unexpectedly upon the ruins of a great city, partly built on prismatic hills similar to those before described, and which, though it lies much more northerly than is laid down in Shaw's map, was doubtless the ancient Clima. Many foundation-walls of various dwelling-houses, and the traces of some temples, were plainly to be discerned, as well as the defences of a citadel, of which there still remains a half-tower, and in the valley several pillars, and a long street or broad wall, it is no longer possible to distinguish which.

Further off stands a kind of gate, formed by three colossal stones, not unlike the druidical remains in England and Brittany, but whose destination here was not quite evident to me. Fragments of columns and cornices lay about in abundance, but I saw no inscription. We hurried over these ruins, however, because our whole attention was directed towards Spetla,

whose remains Shaw considered as the most interesting and important in all Barbary. I may remark here, once for all, that if I seldom quote any other modern writer than the often-cited Shaw, it is because few have written about them, still fewer seen them, and almost all have only servilely copied him.

You left me, dear Schefer, involved in the rocky labyrinth, and will I hope share in the joy with which I heard the Hamba announce "land" triumphantly from the heights. When we reached the spot where he stood, all made an involuntary halt: the view before us was magnificent. At our feet rolled a river over a deep and broad rocky bed, its banks thickly covered with the deep green foliage of the oleander, which looked as if a red cloth had been thrown over them. On one side of the river, where it made a broad sweep into the land, were hundreds of camels from Dscherid, some standing, some lying down, laden with their pack-saddles and empty sacks, destined to hold corn from the northern country; at least, as many sheep and goats were crowded near them to drink, and some twenty shepherds with their crooked staves and long garments stalked solemnly about their charge. A small plain stretched beyond the river, and high mountains shut in

the view on that side. The plain itself, however, was the most attractive object in the picture; for there lay the ancient Suffetula, the greater part in such good preservation, that it recalled the image of Pompeii vividly to my mind.

As soon as we reached the spot, I felt convinced that a man who understood his business, and could spend some time here, would be able to give the whole plan of the city. Almost all the foundation-walls, as well as the pavement of many streets, still exist, with a great number of buildings still erect, more or less in a state of preservation. The imposing effect of the whole is greatly heightened by the circumstance, that scarcely any mason-work, with small stones or brick, is to be seen; nearly the whole town was built of large masses of freestone, sometimes secured with clamps of iron, but with no other kind of joining,—at least we could no where discover traces of any other between the stones. Farthest to the left, and towards the south, stand some square buildings, probably baths, as we remarked in one the remains of a broad canal. Near them we saw the ruins of several dwelling-houses, a triumphal arch in the Corinthian style, richly decorated, and two side arches, of which, Shaw says, there are no

traces, and whose pillars are unfortunately overthrown and broken.

The inscription given by the Doctor in his work, and which even at that time he was obliged partly to supply, has now almost disappeared; strange enough, however, the few words still to be deciphered, "CONSTANTIO, MAXIMINIANO," *are not* in Shaw's copy. I afterwards found so many palpable inaccuracies in his relation, that I cannot help suspecting, either that the good Doctor visited Spetla by proxy; or, if he were really here himself, that owing to the then insecurity of travelling in these countries, his stay must have been very brief, and, perhaps, much disturbed. I will afterwards adduce some evidence in support of this supposition.

A street leads from the triumphal arch, bordered with low walls, and large flat stones, (not black, according to Shaw, but greyish red limestone, so much used here,) through the middle of the town, not in a straight, but in a serpentine line, like the new streets in London. Further on, the street passes between two heaps of stones and columns, piled high on one another,—doubtless the remains of considerable palaces or temples,—and is lost shortly after in a labyrinth of foundation-walls and a countless

number of small isolated, upright blocks, which, from a distance, have much the appearance of monuments in a crowded churchyard. A good way to the right stand the celebrated three connected temples. Shaw says, that the triumphal street runs in a straight line towards the entrance of the temples; an assertion that could hardly have been made by an eye-witness; as the parallels from the triumphal arch, and the portals of the temples, are at least two hundred steps apart. Perhaps another street might have branched off from the main one, which may be followed for a while in the direction of the temple, and probably led to it.

Shaw has called this noble monument of ancient greatness, with justice, the crown of Roman remains in Africa; particularly as he did not see Dugga, of which I shall speak hereafter. These temples stand nearly in the centre of the town, taken longitudinally. A quadrangle, enclosed within high walls, surrounds the three temples in such a manner, that their façade nearly forms one side of the square, leaving the free space *before* the temples. A portal in the wall, with two side-doors, serves as an entrance, and it may plainly be seen that from here a triple-covered colonnade, a mile long, stretched to the temple. What is however remarkable is, that not this

chief portal, but only one of the side-doors, leads directly to the middle temple, although the line of the portal itself runs parallel with the façade of the temple.

The colonnade, of which only some half-broken columns are standing, must have led in a slanting direction to the portico of the middle temple; or, what is more probable, there was an additional way, running at a right angle and in connexion with the walls of the court, of which there are still some traces. From the very inferior architecture of the portal, it appears to have been of later date than the temple. I could gather nothing with certainty from the inscription. The drawing Shaw gives of the whole is incorrect, particularly in one point; he represents the *three* temples with pilasters, whereas the middle temple has most certainly columns, and only the two others pilasters.

The middle and largest temple is also properly the richest in its ornaments, and scarcely yields, in the finish and fine taste of the work, to the so-called *maison quarrée* at Nismes; yet Shaw's drawing represents it as almost without ornament. Shaw says at last, that the portico was quite fallen in, which is not yet entirely the case, although but little remains,—namely, some richly decorated corner-

stones on which the roof rested, and which are inserted in the front wall of the temple itself.

It would be very little trouble to restore this noble monument. Nearly all that has been thrown down lies still undisturbed on the ground, overgrown with weeds and prickles, but very little injured. Mr. J—— measured a fragment of a column that had a length of four-and-twenty feet and a diameter of three feet and a half. The middle temple is sixty feet long and forty wide; and, judging by the eye, I should say it is about a sixth higher and broader than the others: the form of all three is alike, with the exception before made of the columns and pilasters: the space between them is about a third of the breadth.

Behind, the temples are united by a wall of similar height with that which surrounds the court, and in every partition between the buildings is a large semicircular window broken out, which is also the case in the continuation of the wall on either side of the smaller temples, which completes one side of the quadrangle. The three back gables are still remaining, and so is nearly the whole of the façade, which produces the most imposing, if not the most picturesque, effect: the front gables are fallen in. The stone of which the temples are built, although similar in kind to that employed for the other

buildings of the city, has here assumed a more yellow tint, which distinguishes these beautiful monuments of ancient art yet more from the other ruins.

Unless something is quickly done for their preservation, they will offer nothing more in a few years than a colossal heap of stones: even now, the ruins of columns, friezes, roof-stones, and cornices, whose beautiful workmanship is as admirable when examined closely, as they appear when in their places, reach in many places half-way up to the roof. I would gladly have remained here the remainder of the day, to have made some sketches of the remains of this city of the dead; but we had no food for our cattle, and the nearest Bedouin camp was six leagues distant. It was some consolation to me to hear from my Mamaluks that Sir Grenville Temple had visited the place shortly before with an artist: he will certainly not withhold objects of so much interest from the public.

On the right from the temples stand four slender columns or corners of a considerable building, and the low encompassing walls of a very large, and, according to appearances, splendid palace; further off, and directly upon the steep rocks overhanging the water, are the remains of an extensive building, constructed

(contrary to the general practice) of small stones connected together; but many columns and other massive ornaments are lying about.

Not the smallest fragment of marble was to be met with: if there has been any, it has probably been long since taken away for the decoration of mosques and holy marabuts. The site of this villa overhanging the river, and its oleander forest, must have rendered it a delightful abode. From this place we descended to the banks, and followed the half-sandy half-rocky bed of the river, as far as the north-western side of the city, where an ancient aqueduct, which served also as a bridge for foot-passengers, led us over the stream. Here, between closely approaching rocks, the river formed a little cascade, whose murmur in these desolate regions had a most singular effect. It would be too diffuse were I to describe every individual and less important ruin: I shall conclude my account with the mention of a large mausoleum in the northern part of the town, which makes a pendant, as it were, to the triumphal arch in the south. The freestone walls are as beautiful and level as if they had been finished yesterday.

Before we went away, my sport-loving secretary cruelly desecrated the sacred pre-

cincts of the temple, by the destruction of a whole family of pigeons, who had made their abode in the ruins. After shooting father and mother, he climbed up to the roof to take the eggs; a barbarity I could not forgive, till I helped him to devour the dainties at our supper at Cassarin.

The whole length of the plain, six leagues from Spetla to Cassarin (Colonia Scillitana), was scattered over with ruins, and must have been highly cultivated. Now even the best soil was covered with coarse reedy grass; in some places it had been burnt away and replaced by a finer bright green grass. The Moorish town of Cassarin is no longer in existence, like Irudsa and Spetla, which Shaw gives as small places a hundred years ago. In the beautiful valley at the foot of Dschebel Schamby, near the ruins of the old town, the Bedouin tribe of Firaschisch have a permanent encampment in different duars; the tents were all prettily stuck round with boughs. This valley is watered by the river Derb: in the pastures the oleander grows in enormouus quantities, and it is always a luxurious sight for a northern to see the numerous herds grazing under their blossoms.

The antiquities of Cassarin, which we visited

the same evening, notwithstanding a journey of twelve leagues, might, with the exception of the three temples, vie with those of Spetla; and their environs are, perhaps, still more romantic: they lie upon a mountain perpendicularly over the river, which is here much wilder, and winds at first through steep and singularly formed masses of stone, its banks bare of vegetation; and then meanders through the oleander plain among cactus plantations. On the other side there is a magnificent view in the interior of the mountains as far as Hydra.

Here is also an arch in tolerable preservation, but of much simpler architecture than that of Spetla, and which, according to the inscription, was dedicated to the birthplace of Quintus Manlius Felix: below are other mausoleums, one of which is remarkable; it is in the form of a slender square tower, built in three stories: the lower one the architect has made simple and severe in its style; the second forms an exceedingly elegant and beautifully decorated temple, with sixteen Corinthian pilasters; the third story consists of a niche open only on the northern side, in which probably there was a statue as an ornament, as a crown to the whole seems wanting. The foreside of the under story is covered over and over with an

endless elegy, which is still to be read with tolerable ease; its superficial meaning may be found in Shaw's book. Another inscription shows that it was erected to the memory of a patrician, J. Flavius and his wife, by their son.

A large portion of the city may still be plainly traced; and here also all the buildings without exception were of freestone. Several dwelling-houses are standing to the roof; over the door of one are two bas-reliefs, but of no particular merit. The darkness compelled us at last to an unwilling retreat; but as on account of our fatigue and the agreeableness of the place we purposed remaining here awhile, we visited the ruins again, but without making any discovery of consequence. We observed that the whole space where we stood was traversed with a thick mat of the roots of Indian fig-trees, which we were told had been killed by the frost. This frost came very opportunely for the Bedouins, for the lions had taken a great liking to this hiding-place, and established themselves in it for a long time very comfortably. I made use of the time we stayed, in sketching the mausoleum I have described, and other trifling matters.

On both nights that we passed here, we saw

all the duars lighted up with an unusual number of fires, which reached along the whole side of the mountain. This was done on account of the beasts of prey, which, although no longer encamped so closely in the neighbourhood, frequently break forth from the mountains, to attack the herds; they also render night-travelling dangerous in these parts.

We were here in the neighbourhood of Constantine, and were under the necessity of keeping ourselves on our guard against the predatory hordes in this anarchised country, whose borders we were to pass. The last night I had but little sleep, for, unluckily, instead of the asses that lately entertained me, I had sentinels whom nothing could silence. The Bedouins are as noisy, and as fond of talking, as the Turks are grave, silent, and reserved. Where there are two together, like the French in general, they must talk; and if after repeated warnings they begin ever so softly out of respect, in a few minutes they go on *crescendo*, till they are fairly screaming. I got no rest till my sentinels went to sleep, when I followed their example. As the antiquities of Gaffsa and Ferianah were of no importance according to all accounts, and my companions, as well as my whole Tunisian suite, gave daily

signs of impatience to behold the end of their troublesome journey, I resolved to return to Tunis over Keff: to say the truth, I had had enough of it myself.

On the fourteenth of August we left this most southerly point of our expedition into the interior, and turned our horses' heads again towards the north.

As the Arabs had said so much to us about the insecurity of the way, and of the predatory excursions continually made by the robber Bedouins, every one armed himself with more than usual care, (I had generally given my pistols to Mustapha to carry for convenience,) and our march began in regular order. The young Caïd of Feraschisch, with one of his Arabians, a Hamba, and two of the Spahis from Keruan, formed the *avant garde:* I myself rode before the main body, that is, the eight mules, with my dearest possession, my journal, in a tin-box fastened to the saddle; near me were Mr. J——, Mustapha, Jussuf, the first Hamba: the rear was brought up by the colonel, the Mamaluks, and the two other Spahis.

We had not advanced a league through a level valley, tolerably closed in by high mountains, when we saw on the other side of the river, fordable at every part, a troop of Be-

douins well-mounted and armed, who were evidently observing us, and following the same line of march: when we stopped to pursue a hare, they stood stock-still also; and when we pursued our route, so did they.

The mules, who continually hung back and delayed us considerably, gave us so much trouble, that when we entered upon a plain where at first the ground rose, our *avant garde* were considerably ahead of us: in the mean time the four strange riders had disappeared behind a hill. On a sudden we saw our friends in front (I will leave out the French for a change) coming back to us at full gallop, uttering loud and to us unintelligible outcries: they lost no time in falling into the rear, when Mustapha gave me an explanation:—"The Bedouins are before us, and will attack us directly."

The colonel, who is much more ready to fight with the Arabs than to climb their rocks, sprang forwards immediately, rallying our fugitives in Arabic. I summoned Jussuf and the other Hamba; and, without further deliberation, it was resolved to forestall the approaching enemy; however, only the little troop, consisting of our three Christian selves, the Caïd, Jussuf, and his colleague, galloped to the attack with weapons ready; the others remained

behind, probably to take care of the asses, and only joined us with loud cries when all fear was over.

When we reached the heights, we saw the four Bedouins again before us; they reined up their horses, and did not stir as we approached; another troop, which now became visible on the side, did the same: whether the two were in concert, and really entertained hostile intentions, was not quite clear; according to their own assurance they were only armed for their journey as we were. We could say nothing against it, and all we could do was to laugh at our false alarm, which but a few minutes before had seemed a very disagreeable earnest. It now occurred to me, (somewhat of the latest, it must be owned,) in consequence of some remark from Mr. J——, to examine the weapons of the Spahis of Keruàn, who had shown themselves so expert in riding away. What was my astonishment, when I found neither gun nor pistol loaded, in the former not as much as a flint!

Even our sanguinary-looking Zamiel had never thought of such a thing as charging his piece; and, to crown the whole, had fastened up the lock with a leather covering. I gave the whole pack of godless heathens a hearty

scolding, as they well deserved, for their unpardonable conduct, which no one could possibly have anticipated from an escort, and made them load before me, when every one of them produced his flint and other necessaries from his saddle-bag, where they had been very comfortably packed up, uttering all the while all manner of lies in their own excuse. The whole rabble would have fled to a man at the very first shot from the enemy, and, after leaving us all in the scrape, have invented some cunning excuse to save themselves afterwards: we knew at least for the future whom we could rely upon and whom not, and that was some consolation. We passed scattered ruins of more or less extent throughout the whole of this day's journey: the two huge upright stones, with a third laid upon them, which we found among the ruins of Cilma, were very frequently met with.

In the district of Fusanah there was an appearance of an excavated water-course; large stone basins were lying about, and in the side stones there were always deep edges, or four-sided holes pierced,—for what purpose they were intended could not be conjectured. Both the plains we passed, through which the Derb and another smaller river flowed in many windings, had a most fertile soil; and, un-

cultivated as they are, would be admirably adapted for colonies for our countrymen who are rambling all over the world; the more so as the neighbouring mountains afford wood, and the climate is tolerably severe.

After entering the mountains we rode for four leagues through an unbroken forest, consisting of pointed-leaved pines, tujas, red redais, and a fine kind of juniper-tree: the ground was sandy, and the rocks, which assumed the most out-of-the-way forms, were mostly of yellow sandstone: many places bore a striking resemblance to our own barren pine-heaths, and spots where nothing but stunted wood grows: none of the trees here were above twenty feet in height. In the middle of the forest, and in a region that was not without character, we again came upon the ruins of a city: they were extensive, but we could find no inscription to tell us what name it had borne; neither could I find on my chart any certain note of any of the remains of antiquity that we passed to-day.

We had entirely forgotten our fear of an attack, and were riding carelessly down a ravine, where we were told we should find a brook to refresh the horses, when we saw ourselves at once surrounded by fifty or sixty Arabs on

horseback, who, had they been hostilely disposed, would probably have been too many for us. Luckily for us, it was only a riding funeral, none of the white-mantles were armed, and all were of the Caïd's tribe and from the territory of Smella,* where we were to pass the night. The corpse of the young Shech whose funeral it was, had been wrapped in a red cloth, and hung over his horse's saddle like a calf: the horse had no bridle, but a Shech rode on each side. This convoy had likewise halted to drink, and we looked at each other with mutual curiosity. I noticed one little horse, shaped exactly like a lama; and on his arching, slender, deer-like neck was set a head certainly not eight inches long.

Two hours after this rencontre we saw more ruins on the edge of the forest, where, under an old wall, was an excellent spring; and for the first time since we had left Sauwan, we enjoyed the luxury of cold and crystal-clear water. One must travel in dried-up wastes as long as we had done, to pay due honour to this precious

* A duar, where one of the greatest Caïds with the most considerable of the tribe have their permanent residence.

indulgence. A thousand paces farther lay the Smella of Schar, where the uncle of our young Caïd held rule: he was a very rich man, as the careful culture of the fruitful soil, from which any produce may be obtained, brings a great deal of money to the Bedouins, who carry on a trade in corn with Dscherid.

Here we met with a variety of unusual luxuries: the Caïd, for example, had his tent of canvass lined with coloured stuff; and when I entered, a lion's skin was spread for me, and a Persian carpet for the Caïd. I would willingly have bought such a skin, but, according to the law, all lion-skins must be delivered to the governor of the province for the Bey, who gives a certain premium to the bringer.

The Caïd, who looked more like a European Jew than an Arab, wore under a fine *heik*, or, as it is called, a *haerem*, fastened over the head with a clasp of camel's hair, a Turkish peach-blossom coloured kaftan with heavy silver ornaments. His little son, about six years of age, wore a similar garment, but without a *heik*; instead of it, he wore a cap of the same stuff trimmed with silver, which had the most ridiculous appearance, as he was otherwise quite naked, without shirt or drawers; he had silver rings about three inches in diameter in his ears, and heavy silver anklets on

his very little and very dirty spindle legs. Besides this sprout, the Caïd had another older and better-looking boy, who is to be his successor: his live stock consisted of two perfectly white mares, who showed a great deal of blood, but were not handsome, or rather their carriage was not good. It is a peculiarity, and a very ugly one of the horses here, that they never carry their tails well: they hold them and the whole crupper like the mules, always somewhat drawn in as soon as they are in motion; so that, in direct contrast to the real Arabian horse, they look better when at rest, than when their riders are on them.

In the evening we witnessed the extraordinary funeral ceremonies in honour of the deceased Shech whose corse we had met; they were to last seven days.

All the women of the duar, alternately at sunrise and sunset, assembled before the tent of the deceased, and performed dances with songs for hours together, while one of the number beat upon a hollow drum. The same ceremony must be repeated some time in the day; when a company of mourners, consisting at least of four persons, show their sympathy by shrieking and howling. The mourners are re-

galed every time with a bowl of cuscussu and meal; but the same individuals are not expected to come a second time, because in that case their sympathy in the unhappy destiny of the dead man might last to eternity. The more mourners, the more honour to the family, —and the more cuscussu, the more mourners. *C'est tout comme chez nous.* The zeal of the women was most exemplary: the time of their music changed frequently and suddenly, which added to its wildness and singularity. The measure and melody were always given with great justness and precision, and with so much taste, that these concerts always ceased too soon for me.

We must in all cases get a little accustomed to foreign music before we can judge of it impartially, and so it is with that of the Arabs. We dared not approach the dancing women closely, but I could discover through my opera-glass that several of them were very pretty.

I remained here a day or two, which I was obliged to pass in bed on account of my headache. A cold had brought this evil upon me: since the beautiful summer night in Ulad Lendessen, the nights had been growing colder; and my thermometer, which at sunrise stood at

10° Reaumur, (55° Fahrenheit) was, five hours later, 26° Reaumur (91° Fahrenheit); a change of temperature, that, with a violent wind and under a very slight roof, cannot but be dangerous to the health.

While I was endeavouring to dictate something to my secretary, the Caïd came with all the inhabitants of the duar, sat down before my tent, and ordered themselves, quite at their ease, to be served by my people with pipes, coffee, sugared-water with *fleur d'oranges*, and at last with five or six bottles of French *liqueurs*. A Thaleb, who held his rosary in his hand, at first made a great deal of fuss before he tasted the forbidden delicacy; but afterwards, in defiance of the laughter of the others, he drank more than all, and became in a short time as red as a lobster.

The rosary was hidden under his robe in the meanwhile, that Muhammed might not see what was going on. The whole company begged, with the curiosity of children, that I would have my baggage opened, that they might look at it: as far as possible, I complied with their desire, which gratified them extremely. Not a rag was shown to them that they did not closely examine and remark upon: some very insignificant things excited

great admiration, and some they laughed at. Two little pocket-pistols, by Kuchenrenter, the gift of a charming cousin, with which one could hit a thin board at fifty paces' distance, enraptured them the most; and they begged me to make trial of one, to show them the effect of the percussion. Unluckily, owing probably to bad priming, the pistol missed twice.

The Arabs immediately conceived the greatest contempt for the percussion, mocked at it, and laughed among themselves; and the Caïd gave it as his opinion that weapons made in the old way were much better. In great vexation, I begged J—— to set up a small bottle upon a stick, and hold it up in the air twenty paces before my tent. I seized the second pistol, and with a fervent prayer to all the demons of powder and shot for a lucky hit, I sat up in bed; and, with "Zamiel, help!" the bottle flew into a thousand pieces. A thousand piasters would not have given me so much pleasure as the rattle of the falling glass.

The admiration of the whole troop, who resembled a herd of monks in their foolish wonder, was very interesting; and when J—— with a percussion gun brought down a bird of prey which had not heeded the pistol-shot, the Arabs were as hasty with their praise as they had been with

their blame, and henceforward looked with envious eyes on our weapons.

Four leagues from Schar, half on the Constantine territory, lies Hydrah, according to Shaw, (the ancient Tymdrum or Thunadronum,) one of the most remarkable ruins in the country. I wished to see it, but the Caïd would not give me an escort without a special order from his father the chief Caïd, and governor of the province of Meschar, whose encampment lay at the distance of a day's journey, and to whom I had an Amrah from the Bey, because he maintained that the danger would be too great. The Mamaluk also talked of two hundred men as necessary, because the Constantiners had been extorting tribute from the inhabitants on the frontiers, and had killed several men. I therefore requested the colonel to go forward with the Mamaluk to Meschar, deliver the Amrah, and acquaint him with my passionate desire to visit Hydrah, if circumstances permitted.

On the second day I received the colonel's answer, ratifying what had been told us of the importance of the ruins; and with the answer came the necessary order from the Caïd to his son, to furnish me with an escort. Instead of the two hundred men, that were judged necessary yester-

day, they were satisfied with giving me twenty, but all well-armed and mounted. The Caïd remained at home himself, but sent with me as a hostage for the fidelity of the escort his eldest son, and the son of the chief Shech, a boy of twelve years of age: he likewise offered one of his white mares for my own use, which was very welcome to me; as the animals we had obtained from the governor of Keruan were worth very little, and one of the mules had fallen sick the day before from the heat.

As we were preparing to set off, my dragoman, so great an original I am keeping him for my next romance, came to beg that he might be left behind, to protect the property. Thinking he desired this as he had no wish to have his throat cut for the sake of an old ruin, I replied, that I could by no means dispense with the society of so valiant and well-armed an old Turkish soldier as himself, and that I should leave Mustapha, who was a person of inferior value, in charge of the tent. "Good, as God pleases," said he, bending himself like a note of interrogation to light his pipe, which he always carries at his saddle-bow, to console him in all his troubles:—"one can die but once."

When we had ascended the heights behind

Smella, a beautiful mountain country lay before us, and Callal Sinan, an enormous rock, completely flattened at the summit, rearing itself high over all: it greatly resembles Konigstein in Saxony, with this difference; that it is larger, stands on a higher mountain-land, and is not commanded by any other height like Lilienstein.

We rode quickly, and keeping on the watch, without meeting with any thing remarkable; at the distance of three leagues, we perceived, strewed with ruins, like those of Spetla, but more broken by hills, the plain of Hydrah. At this point we were only two good days' journey from Constantine, and only a few minutes east from Bona, which is about the same distance. These three places, Constantine, Bona, and Hydrah, form a nearly perfect equilateral triangle. In point of variety, and in some measure for good preservation of its remains, Hydrah may take its place with Cassarin and Spetla; in number, it far surpasses them. The greater part, however, are of later date, and betray an already corrupted period of the arts. The triumphal arch, of the Corinthian order, whose inscription is still quite legible at the beginning, "IMP. CAES. L. SEPTIMIO SEVERO PERTINACI AVG.," is almost entire; the columns are all standing, and at a

later period great stones have been plastered up against them,—God knows for what purpose,—which partly conceal them, but have no doubt assisted in their preservation. The workmanship of these monuments is only of moderate merit. Among the numerous mausoleums of various forms, some of which are very elegant, is one resembling a small temple, with Corinthian pillars: this is remarkably well preserved; there is absolutely nothing wanting but some stones on the roof; and yet the long inscription, whose place is now only indicated by a few letters and only one connected word, "OCCISO," is partly peeled off, and partly destroyed in wantonness.

Another small monument at some distance, my companion absolutely refused to allow me to examine, because it stood on the Constantine territory. "We shall be attacked by some party out of the neighbouring duars, whose smoke we can see curling, where we stand," said he: as the matter was of no great importance, and a bravado did not appear to me well-timed, I renounced the project. Several columns of the propylæum of a large temple and an extraordinarily bold arch, constructed entirely of large stones without cement, are still standing: there are also many remains

of some considerable buildings, and the pavement of a street. The rarest and by far the most interesting object here are the high walls, with a circumference of several thousand feet, and the ruined towers of a square castle, whose lesser side closes with a portal on the river Hydrah, which flows here over a rude bed of rocks. At this place are also the traces of a bridge to be seen on both sides of the stream.

In the interior a few gates are still remaining, with some columns and arches; but the enormous heaps of freestone that have fallen on one another, already reach a height of more than twenty feet, and would afford materials enough to build a large palace: fragments of marble columns are to be seen amongst these heaps. The whole probably was made use of at a later period, and again destroyed.

As now and then a number of ragged pedestrians and some suspicious-looking persons on horseback showed themselves among the ruins, our escort, who had seen us dismount with no good will, urged us to retreat, and very speedily set us the example. It was not till we had passed a thicket on the road, which had been patrolled right and left and fired into, to give any possible enemy notice that our guns were really loaded, that our

Arabs seemed to feel themselves comfortable. *Bis milluh,* now the danger 's over, we might have cried with the Giaour, without any risk of being too hasty with the exclamation, as in the poem.

To testify their joy for dangers past, our escort began to exhibit some of their own manœuvres. They galloped singly about on all sides, and fired their pieces loaded with bullets; while they were so close to us, that it is only to be wondered that more accidents do not happen on such occasions. Such do, however, sometimes occur, as I learned to my great sorrow in Sfax, where I heard that my friend Jussuf was to be tried before a military tribunal for wounding one of his own Spahis in these exercises, since my departure.

I take this opportunity to remark, that, according to all I have heard from various sources of their wars and combats, and what I myself saw of the Bedouins in Algiers, Bona, and the kingdom of Tunis, I am convinced a resolute officer with twenty of our cavalry might in any situation bid defiance to a hundred of the best-armed Bedouins, as they are at present, without very extraordinary exertion. In the first place, they know of no other kind of manœuvre than to attack *en debouchade,* and to fly after firing off their pieces: secondly, it generally takes them

a quarter of an hour to load their awkward weapons, which are besides four times as heavy as ours: thirdly, these weapons are mostly in a wretched condition, miss fire once at least in every three times, and I never yet saw them take aim with any certainty, although they relate wonders of their amazing shots: fourthly, they are no more dexterous in the use of their pistols than their guns, and are by no means skilled in the use of the sabre, as the Turks and those who have served under them are; indeed they possess scarcely any, or those only of the worst quality: fifthly, and lastly, although they do not want courage when it is absolutely necessary, they are no great friends to fighting, unless they have a considerable interest at stake, and are always better inclined to run away than to fall on: in fact, a strong dose of resignation is much wanted to encounter serious danger with no other help than that of the Bedouins.

We could not avoid making this reflection to-day; and as neither the colonel nor the Mamaluk were with us, J—— and I had made up our minds to trust only to ourselves, or at most to one or two Tunisian Hambas. I will not maintain that all the others were regular poltroons, but I am thoroughly convinced that they were not suffi-

ciently interested in us, and that at the first shot they would certainly have thought of nothing else but of saving the two boys of quality, to whom they seemed much attached, by a hasty flight: they would have quietly abandoned us to the care of Allah.

You have heard how, on the journey from Cassarin, I one day found the guns of the Spahis of Keruan unloaded when a skirmish was expected: to-day we encountered something of the same sort still more amusing. The son of the Caïd carried a very handsome double-barrelled Parisian gun with percussion locks, which his father had purchased in Tunis: it was loaded certainly, but there was no cap on the cylinder, and on inquiry I found that his father never had one! These two boys, the sons of the Caïd and the Shech, were both handsome and graceful, splendidly equipped and dressed out, and really looked so pretty, that it would have been a thousand pities if they had come to any mischief. The housings of the little Caïdish crown prince were of red velvet, and had certainly cost two thousand piasters in Tunis, and his own habiliments were just as fine; but even here the ridiculous was not altogether wanting. The clothes were his father's, so that the waistcoat reached to the

poor child's knees, and the extravagantly long gilt spurs were half as big as himself. Both boys wore caps lined with crimson satin and decorated with black plumes, and rode their powerful grey horses with all the grace and dexterity of grown men, who are all masters of the art here from childhood, and exhibit much boldness in it. The chiefs always ride white horses, and do not prize other colours so highly.

A meal had been bespoken for us in a miserable duar about half-way from Hydrah, and was ready on our return. I had never yet fared so completely in the Bedouin fashion: in this flying journey without mules, we had provided ourselves with weapons and nothing else, neither knife, cup, napkin, nor any other such useless article of luxury. We sat in the sand in a most filthy tent without a carpet; for on the mat which was offered me I discovered certain animals which I will not name, lest Madame Schefer should be looking over your shoulder as you read. Hunger and a most insatiable thirst made me even relish the unaccustomed dinner of milk out of a vessel of wood that stunk most horribly, and had probably been washed to-day for the first time, and mutton only half-done, scooped with the fingers

out of a trough that served alike for man and beast. About twenty ragged figures, whose skin was scarcely to be distinguished in colour from the ground, were chewing their cud near us, and several hideous children ran about as naked as God made them: the heat of the tent was suffocating.

Among the women who were going backwards and forwards, was one, veiled like the rest in dirt and rags, but young, and resembling a beautiful gipsy, by whom, in spite of the disagreeable concomitants, I should have liked exceedingly to have had my fortune told if we had been alone. When it was observed that I noticed her, she was quickly driven away; but she did not go without giving me a smiling and coquetish glance from her black eyes, which showed that she was conscious she had pleased. As we were packing up the next morning, we discovered a cup of mine and Mr. J——'s pipe had been stolen, the first example of the kind that we had met with. I sent for the Caïd, of whose sorry entertainment by the by all my people were complaining, and told him that if the stolen articles were not forthcoming in a quarter of an hour, I would bring the matter before the Bey, to whom I would at the same time relate how little respect had been

shown to the Amrah of his highness, as appeared by his neglect of my suite. He tried to make excuses; but I stopped him directly, saying I would have nothing more to do with him.

One dare not overlook any want of respect from the Bedouins, or they would become quite unmanageable, like spoiled children; and among so barbarous a people it would not require much to convert this unmanageableness into robbery and murder. Before ten minutes had elapsed, the Caïd made his appearance again, accompanied by the Thaleb with his rosary, and all the Shechs, to restore the missing property, which very prompt discovery strengthened my suspicion that the robbery had not been quite unknown to him or those around him: the laughing mien of a kind of jester, whom the Caïd carried about with him, betrayed as much. Almost all the chiefs have one of these court fools, who are very expert in the imitation of speech and gesture, as I once learned from personal experience. I have no doubt, but that, after our departure, the caricature of the foreign Rumis afforded much delight.

We often found individuals of the Jewish nation established in the Bedouin camps, performing all sorts of work for them, and supply-

ing them with all kinds of goods. It is remarkable how sure one is to find some of these ultra-industrious people, wherever money is to be earned.

The occurrence I have just related shows the Bedouins in a less advantageous light than I have hitherto depicted them; but we ought not to forget, that with all their good dispositions, and even virtues, these people are at the lowest grade of civilization, and in their manner of life not very far removed from the beasts of the forest. I have also remarked that their demeanour very much depends on that of their chief, after whose example they model themselves. The Caïd of this place, however, did not belong to those whose behaviour is worthy of commendation, neither did he appear to exercise a firm and beneficial authority over his subjects. I bestowed my presents among the Shechs, and sent him away empty-handed, (though he begged for many things,) and without bidding him adieu, or permitting the attendance he offered.

We had scarcely proceeded a league on our day's journey, when we stumbled on the ruins of an old city about two leagues or more in circumference, and having one of the loveliest sites that could have been chosen. The moun-

tains here decline into smaller isolated and scattered hills, before which stretches a fertile plain, the whole covered with corn-stubbles. Opposite and on either side high mountains close it in; among these we distinguished Callat Sinan, on the Constantine territory, which we had admired the day before; and in the distance Dschebel Salata was visible, which does not yield to Sauwan in height.

The view was magnificent on every side, and less bald than African scenery usually is: two of the nearest and most considerable hills were almost overgrown with pine wood. The city stands partly on the heights and partly in the valley, and possesses the inestimable advantage of two abundant springs of water in the midst. They still flow a considerable distance in canals of mason-work, at the end of which the one best provided with water makes a pretty fall, where we and our horses refreshed ourselves. In the spot where these blessed fountains first appear from the heights, we saw the ruins of two temples, and in the valley there are considerable remains of large buildings: one of them exhibits a handsome gate in good preservation, and the half of a mausoleum is still standing not much farther off. In one of the ruins that crown one of the highest hills, was a

fallen stone, with an inscription which escaped our notice: the colonel mentioned it to me afterwards.

Almost all the inscriptions that are found here, are so effaced, that, without mentioning their general insignificance, they require much study before any thing is deciphered; even to make an exact copy takes up a great deal of time, which, in this country, owing to the method of travelling, which from circumstances does not admit of change, can rarely be afforded. The whole extent of the ruins was animated to-day by a caravan of three or four hundred camels, all laden with corn from the plain, which they were carrying to Dscherid. No doubt, we were indebted to the springs for their having made their resting place here, and affording us so pleasing a spectacle.

The Arabs call this place Sela, others Thala; the former name of the city it would now be difficult to discover. The old charts, drawn up probably by Ptolemy, Strabo, and others, are regular fancy pictures, not only differing entirely from each other, but, (as any one may easily convince himself by the mountains and rivers, by the situation of well-known and positively ascertained ancient cities,) so decidedly unfaithful, that they have given

some places falsely by a whole degree. Shaw's map, which is still the best, though little in detail, I found to be tolerably correct thus far; but with respect to the whole country I traversed from Cassarin to Keff, and which he himself did not see, he is as false as the others, and of no more use.

The modern Sela must have been one of the most considerable cities in Byzacium; as its extent, the extraordinary fruitfulness of the environs, and the yet visible magnificence of the remains sufficiently prove. According to what I heard from the natives, and from an old Mamaluk who had been fifty years in the service of the Dey, and had traversed the country many times, there had been, till now, no European traveller in this part of the country since Bruce, except Sir Grenville Temple, whose work has not yet appeared.

From the present appellation we might be inclined to think we had discovered Thala, the fortified place whither Jugurtha fled after losing the battle with Cæcilius Metellus: but in the first place, according to all the maps, Thala lay half a degree more to the south; and secondly, and what is of much greater weight, Sallust's description of the want of water in the neighbourhood of Thala by no means agrees

with the situation of Sela, which is surrounded by springs.

Scarcely more than a league from Sela we saw the remains of another smaller town, and here also was a considerable spring. The whole way from the plain to the Smella of Ain Ranim was sown with the wrecks of temples, monuments, and perhaps of inns, whose resurrection would have been extremely agreeable to us. I do not think that any province formerly subject to the Roman sceptre, Italy itself not excepted, offers such a mass of memorials of antiquity, as are found of Byzacium and Zengitana. They offer fewer master-pieces; but, on the other hand, they are more imposing, and excite the imagination more strongly, from the absence of all objects that can remind us of the present in the majestic wilderness.

On approaching the opposite mountain chain, we found numerous dark-coloured slaty-stone formations and traces of alum-stone, such as England produces; and a quantity of isinglass. What chiefly surprised me was a large hill, evidently formed by the refuse, or heaped together. I must therefore conclude that there were alum-works here formerly, although I willingly acknowledge my ignorance, whether or no this manufacture was exercised by the Ro-

mans. I could not subject them to chemical examination here; and a small specimen both of the fresh and of the washed ore, with some other kinds of stone which I had intended to submit to a mineralogist, were unfortunately lost on the march from Tunis: but ocular inspection convinced me (which you know has made me acquainted *ex officio* with all that relates to alum) of the justice of the hypothesis. The learned may declare it impossible; I am contented to be sure it is true.

The Smella of Ain Ranim, where the Bedouin governor-general lives, (as reverend an old man as King Solomon, whom his son at our night's halting-place does not at all resemble,) is probably the largest duar in the kingdom, as it consists of several hundred tents, which occupy the whole of a small mountain valley. The number of dogs doubles that of the tents, and one dare not go about the duar without some kind of weapon on account of these animals, as the savage ones frequently attack a stranger in right earnest. It is however worthy of remark, that madness is unknown among them. In the tent where the governor has his harem, I saw three beautiful falcons, very different from ours, sitting with their hoods on: they hunt both birds and hares

with them with great surety. They were moulting, so that we could not make trial of their dexterity. They are ready for the field in October.

To make us amends, a very pretty little daughter of the Caïd, a child about five years old, gave us a specimen of her abilities: she was a perfect little devil, climbed like a squirrel to the top of the highest tent, then threw herself upon a horse, and rode about full tilt, next wrestled with the boys, and began to throw stones with them in such a style, that we grown-up people very soon had enough of it. In spite of her courage, however, both she and the boys ran away in the greatest terror when I looked at her through my glass; and nothing could prevail on her to remain when I brought it again to my eye. She took it for an evil eye to a certainty, when it was only a weak one. Her father was much diverted with the joke: he was the first Bedouin I ever heard talk politics, while the others know nothing of the rest of the world beyond their Smella. He was supported by a negro Hamba, a freedman of the Sapatapa and Exclusives of Tunis, who was here on an embassy.

The result of their observations was by no means flattering to us; for they maintained, that since the death of Napoleon, there was only one

celebrated man in the world worth speaking of—Mehemed Ali of Egypt.

The first ruin we met with on the following day showed traces of an amphitheatre, quite destroyed, and the remains of temples, and some mausoleums; but they were of no interest. Perhaps this might be the ancient Sufes.

Towards noon we reached a singular rocky region, where we breakfasted in a grotto, before which flowed a clear mountain stream. The rocks in this ravine have exactly the appearance of an ancient pavement under foot; and around, that of walls, constructed by human hands, as regularly as if they were squared throughout. Here were seeming balconies, supported on brackets; in another place columns and pillars, none bearing the smallest appearance of vegetation. Even near the brook there was nothing of the kind to be seen, and the water purled over loose pebbles. Farther on, where the brook fell into a deeper basin, we saw some women washing linen by stamping on it with their feet,—the universal method of washing here, where nearly every thing is done in a manner precisely the reverse of ours. For example, the Arabs mount their horses on the right side; write from right to left; wear the crooked sabre with the concave side in front; let the beard grow, and shave the head;

sit on their own legs instead of a chair; eat their bread hot, and their meat cold; take their soup at the end of the meal, instead of the beginning; bare their feet instead of their heads on entering a room, and many other things in like manner. If our laundresses chose to adopt the Arabian fashion, they would have a double advantage,—they could wash and knit at the same time. You see I profit by my travels. We afterwards saw a man pass on horseback who had put meat under his saddle, in the manner of the Tartars, to make it tender; by which means it really becomes tender, and better flavoured, than it does by all the beating the cutlets get with us, to soften their dispositions.

In the afternoon, we passed, for the first time after a long interval, a village of stone houses, in prettily wooded and extremely well-cultivated fields; we even observed manure heaped up for the use of the gardener. Near one of these lay a fragment of a column of costly antique marble, of a kind I had never before seen here: it was as if painted of the most beautiful bright green, with broad dark violet-coloured stripes. I regretted extremely that I had no means of transport, that I might have taken this precious fragment from the dunghill on which it lay.

The old Mamaluk related to me on the way, that he had accompanied Count Philippi (whose travels have never been published, as he died soon after at Constantinople,) to see some ruins, among which was a large gate, which the Count mounted, but could by no means get down again; whereupon he, the Mamaluk, had been obliged to fetch Bedouins and ropes for the farther transport of the noble adventurer. If I wished to visit the place, which was called Sanfur, he said he could find the way; but as it lay quite out of the road, it would be necessary to renounce our design of reaching Keff by night, and to seek out some Bedouin camp near Sanfur, where we could repose. I was well pleased to make a longer stay, for which we were most surprisingly rewarded. Instead of a great gate, there were three splendid arches; and these were surrounded by the ruins of an extensive city, the existence of which appears to be nearly unknown.

Among the numerous remains which fill the whole neighbourhood, I shall only mention those that principally claimed our attention. To these belong, in the first place, the ruins of a tolerably large temple, built on the steep declivity overhanging the little river that flowed

through the plain. Three walls were remaining, to the height of the roof, in tolerable preservation. The equally well-preserved Corinthian pilasters were united with graceful decorations of fruit and flowers, bordered with hanging masks of oxen, satyrs, and men. We found no inscription. The vaulted arch of a tomb below, now tenanted by two hideous fat salamanders and two owls, which were frightened at our entrance, and flew nearly in our faces, was intact, nor could we perceive that any part had been taken away to be applied to other uses. As they fell, there lay the fragments in huge heaps, half-covered with soil that must have been blown hither, and weeds.

One of the three arches, of which mention has been made, of a simple and heavy style of architecture, seems, from its position at the extreme end of the city, to have been one of its gates; but the two others, which are larger, more richly decorated, with beautiful fluted columns, all now unfortunately overthrown, were no doubt triumphal arches, or trophies of honour. The friezes of one only, the most decorated and the largest of all, were remaining: the gate had a breadth of more than thirty feet, with a height of above forty; and the

much-worn letters of a long inscription might still be perceived.

It was too late for a closer examination that evening; and, as my talents for climbing are not much greater than those of the late Count Philippi, I despatched the more vigorous J—— with the dragoman on the following morning, if possible to scale the arch, and bring away an exact copy of the inscription.

According to their report, the expedition was one of great difficulty, and some danger in the descent; which would have reduced Mr. J—— to despair, if he had not fortunately discovered a small opening in the interior of the arch, through which he contrived to wriggle himself, and thence leaped the remainder of the height,—no very agreeable way of reaching the bottom, on account of the heaps of stone lying beneath. The not very important result of their labour was as follows:—

DIVO SEPTIMO SEVERO MEDVGARAE
ADIABENICO PRINCIPI MAXIMO
IMPERATORI IMPERATORIS ANNII
CATILI PII CESARIS MARCI AVRE
LII FILIO ANTONINO PIO AVG FELICI
PARTVICO MAXIMO
BRITTANICO MAXIMO GERMANICO
MAXIMO PONTIFICI MAXIMO ET TRIBV

NATO PONTIFICI XVIII PIO
CONSVLI IIII PERPETVO PROCONSVLI OPTIMO
MAXIMO . . . . PRINCIPI ET
LVCIAE DOMINAE GAETAE LVCII AVGVSTI
MATRI SENATVS ET CASTRORVM ET SPECTATVS
ET PATRIAE VXORI DIVI SEVERI AVGVSTI PII
COLONIA IVLIA ASSVRAS NVMINI
HONORVM DEDIT DIVO PATRI PATRIAE.

From this inscription, there was no doubt that we had the ruins of Medugara before us, and that this arch had been erected to the honour of the emperor Septimius Severus, his two sons Geta and Caracalla, and his consort; which is also quite conformable to history. Septimius Severus was probably only the adopted son of Marcus Aurelius, and born in Africa, perhaps in Medugara itself, as may be conjectured from the particularly slavish tone of the inscription.

Mr. J—— found some other inscriptions on tombs, which however are not worth transcribing.

The most interesting object in these ruins was what had been a large and apparently splendid theatre, with the pillar of the stage, several seats for the spectators, and some niches behind, still standing to perhaps a fourth of their former height. I am sorry that we had no better-informed architect or antiquary in our company, who might have favoured the public with a more learned and detailed account of

this beautiful and remarkable monument. Mr. J——'s assertion, that he could plainly make out the refectory and the chamber where the actresses made their toilette, (we assume a poetical license when we deny that there were no actresses at that time,) the large box allotted to strangers, and that where the city commandant concealed himself when any tumults arose, will certainly make the old antiquaries shake their wigs with impatience: there is no inscription to be found here; but I have no doubt but that here, more than any where else, excavations would disclose much, and bring to light many a hidden treasure. The diameter of the theatre is about 250 feet.

In the neighbouring Bedouin camp I might have applied my medical knowledge, if I had only enough of it, and a proper quantity of mercury; for here I found two fine young people suffering dreadfully from a disorder that makes great ravages among these poor creatures: they make use of the most ridiculous remedies, in which their quacks are potent; they consist, for the greater part, in strips of paper, and other amulets, sewn in their clothes, or applied to the part affected: they can seldom be prevailed on to apply to a Christian practitioner in Tunis, not out of fanaticism, but

from avarice; for they will swallow blindly any kind of medicine from a travelling Jew or Christian, and even beg for it frequently. However, I gave them the address of my physician in Tunis.

The Shech in my morning-walk took me to one of the women's tents, without appearing to take my request to that effect at all amiss. We were quickly surrounded by more gazers than I brought with me: there were about half a dozen women, only one of whom, a young girl, could be called handsome: they wore three silver rings of gradually increasing size in each ear; the last, which hung below the shoulder, was at least seven or eight inches in diameter: round the ankles and under the calves of the legs they wore similar double rings; those in the ears were also set with rough pieces of coral, glass beads, and all kinds of barbarous finery. They allowed me to look at all their ornaments, even those on the legs, without the least affectation.

We afterwards viewed the corn-stacks, which were very well and closely built; the well-filled melon and cucumber field, and the threshing-floor, where an ass served as a pivot, round which two horses and three mules were turning in a circle with the accuracy of Russian sol-

diers exercising: the ass, in particular, who described a circle of not more than his own length, must have had a most tremendously strong head not to have felt giddy: a dancing dervise could not have done it better.

It was somewhat late and excessively hot as we returned: a little way from the tents, we were stopped by a troop of young men, one of whom seized the bridle of my mule, and held a short stick before my face. I was somewhat surprised at this singular ceremony, till the Shech, who had accompanied us on horseback, explained to me that it was an ancient custom, (and old customs whether in jest or earnest have the force of laws with the Arabs,) that when a stranger was in the camp at the time a wedding took place, they were always arrested in this manner, till they ransomed themselves with a small present for the newly-married pair.

The bride was the same, whose ear-rings and anklets I had examined shortly before: five piasters were sufficient to excite great pleasure among the petitioners; and I was much interested to find a right so often exercised in my Wendisch fatherland here repeated, except that the stick with the Arabs represents a weapon with which the stranger is

forcibly detained, and the weaker ribbon shows a mere *captatio benevolentiæ* with us.

The day's march was extremely fatiguing, partly from its length, and partly because my mule and Mr. J——'s horse had each cast a fore shoe, and were now severely lamed by the stony mountain-path. The Bedouins ride their horses unshod, which is the reason why a smith who can shoe horses is never to be found but in the larger towns.

If the Arabs used their horses as much and for so many purposes as we do, they would be obliged to make use of iron, as many Moors in the cities, and the small body of cavalry in the service of the Bey, already do.

However much the Bedouins appear to expect from their horses, when they are seen only for a few days, a longer stay with them proves the very contrary. It seems that a horse cannot be reckoned for much, which, on their marches, (never, except in cases of the greatest necessity, exceeding thirteen English miles,) is furiously spurred by the rider, in order to make it go through the military exercises at full speed over all impediments, and sustain mock fights with an invisible enemy: the poor animal is often so roughly handled on these occasions, that it bleeds profusely in mouth and flank. When we also observe how seldom and how

little they ride,—that they have not the slightest idea of keeping a horse upon the trot or in *train de chasse*, or to let them run for miles, as even ladies do every day in England when riding merely for exercise, and which, with the Bedouins, would never happen but on a dangerous flight;—and when we mark the fatigue of their horses in their rare and brief marches, or in a career of scarcely a minute's duration;—we can easily understand how they can ride their horses unshod, and also why these animals, which, although degenerated, show still a great deal of blood, are able to endure so little in their hands: better food, better attendance, and, above all, regular work, effect a complete change in this respect.

None of the horses, which the Bey of Tunis, and afterwards the Caïd, provided for us, could stand our long marches. We were obliged to leave all the Bey's horses in Sfax, with the single exception of that Mr. J—— rode; and which, though it looked wretchedly at first, plucked up considerably afterwards, when it grew accustomed to fatigue. A few days after our arrival, the weakest among them died: one mare, a very good one to all appearance, which was furnished by the Caïd of that place, was so much exhausted after the gazelle-chase and two long days' march, that, a short dis-

tance from Keruan, when Mustapha, who rode her, was remounting, and stepped somewhat heavily on the stirrup, the whole four legs failed at once, and the creature fell.

Nevertheless I am convinced that the same animal, which was beautifully formed and had no vice, with regular training would have galloped four German miles (about thirteen English) without any great exertion; and a march of thirteen leagues at a walking pace, like that from Keruan, would have been a mere promenade. I had a proof of the justice of this conclusion, from the horses of the same race in Bona, on which the *chasseurs d'Afrique* were mounted, and which showed themselves quite unwearied, although the treatment and care they experienced were any thing but perfect: but they were at least well-fed, and their work was regular.

Their food and treatment with the Bedouins surpasses all belief. I never saw a horse rubbed down or cleaned; they stand the whole day fastened with a halter, quite unsheltered in the burning sun or falling rain; and at night exposed to the dews and cold, which is severe enough in winter in the mountainous regions. Their food consists of wretched chopped straw, very little barley, and a mi-

serable pasturage: and even this was so sparingly given, that on the way they swallowed almost every thing which the mules only eat in general. We were more than once eye-witnesses to the fact of the horses eating their own manure; and the Arabs maintained very seriously that this was a peculiar excellence in their horses; because, as they asserted, they were quite sure not to die of hunger!

Keff, the ancient Sicca Venerea, is described in nearly all the old maps I had with me as lying west of Bagrada, instead of east, and the latitude is wrong by half a degree: we may judge by this how much they are to be relied on.

Lying on the declivity of a mountain, it is seen by the weary traveller long before he reaches it. The mountain prospect here is very like that at Tunis in one respect,—there are three colossal zigzag forms reared high over the others, Dschebel Lisbel, Wundsa, and Meleck. The farther environs of the rock and mountain land of Constantine are incomparably richer and more beautiful in form, and are not improperly called Abulfeda, "the high and sublime;" as the Arabs assert, that from the highest points, the kindred Andalusia may be discerned beyond the sea. Directly beneath

Keff, stretches a plain three leagues long and half a league broad, as smooth as velvet: it would be the finest racing-ground, Newmarket not excepted, that I ever beheld.

I was no where better received than here. The governor, who, as in Keruan, unites in his own person the first civil and military dignities, and is consequently nearly absolute, is a man of great stature and imposing figure: the Bey of Tunis seems to choose none but physically great men for governors and Caïds, as it has pleased Heaven to make none but little ones grandees of Spain. He lodged me in his own palace, and received me at the door: his state-chamber, decorated with splendid weapons, was assigned me as a sleeping-apartment; and he even carried his respect for the Bey's Amrah so far, that on the first day he refused to sit down before me. Notwithstanding his age, the governor still possessed a fine black beard, and also a son sixteen years of age, who is himself the father of a son four years old.

Nothing could be imagined prettier than this child, who paid me a visit half-naked, its little paws fore and hind stained with henna as far as the first joints: a broad gold ring on both prettily assisted to blend the colour of the henna with that of the skin. The little thing walked

gravely with its toes turned out like a dancing-master, and gave itself all the airs of a little Caïd, with the drollest effect. His sixteen years old papa, who looks still like a child, is already deputy Caïd, and, as such, administers justice. According to the prevailing custom here, every one, who is not of higher or equal rank, kisses the hand of the Caïd on their entrance. When the father was gone, the child seated itself directly on the throne-like seat; and it was as comic as unusual to see the visitors kiss the little Cupid's hand as respectfully as they had done his father's and grandfather's; and with what unconstrained *grandezza* Sidi Omar (the child receives this title from every one, even the old governor himself,) received this homage.

The governor of Keff commands about fifty thousand souls, women of course reckoning for nothing: his rule is sometimes despotic, of which the following little trait is a proof.

In this country, and I believe in every Mahommedan land, there are no private, only public baths: to have a bath alone, it must be bespoken long before-hand, and paid for five times as dearly. On my arrival, I felt very much in need of one; and at six o'clock exactly, the principal bathing-time of the

Arabs, I sent to inquire of the governor which was the best bath, and whether I could have one to myself on that day: I received for answer a few minutes after, that the bath was ready as soon as I should order it. The whole bathing public, in whatever degree of perspiration they might have been, had been compelled in that short space of time to huddle on their garments, and leave the bathing-house as fast as possible.

Another and more beneficial exertion of authority was this: in spite of the prohibitions of the law, the use of spirituous liquors had risen to a great height, particularly in those towns where the Christians lived; but not only among them—the Bedouins themselves indulged in it. The governor, without farther ceremony, punished even the sale of a single cup of liquor in his dominions with five hundred blows on the soles of the feet; and after this punishment had been inflicted a few times, the destructive beverage had so entirely disappeared, that I could not get a drop to burn in my lamp.

Scarcely any thing is to be had here, and I began at last to find it exceedingly disagreeable to be in want of so much that habit has rendered necessary to us. I was reduced at last to Moorish cookery and simple water;

the superfluity of milk became at last perfectly disgusting to me. Luckily the water at least was excellent.

I must return once more to the baths, which I found here much cleaner and more elegantly arranged than in Tunis, Sfax, or Keruan. I learned something here also that may be of importance to ladies, if they do not know it already. Although I had been daily exposed to the scorching sun, I was, to my own surprise, very little burnt; but scarcely had I taken the water and vapour baths on my arrival, than I found myself of as deep a brown as any of the natives. It is therefore to be recommended to all who are anxious to preserve their complexions in this climate, to avoid especially, when the heat is great, bringing steam or water in contact with the skin, while irritated by the effects of the sun and air: let one night elapse, and they are injurious no longer.

I also learned a new branch of industry. My woollen bernus had been terribly torn by the thorn-bushes on the road; and as I could neither do without nor purchase a new one in this place, I was obliged to get it mended: it was done in the most ornamental way by a Moor, who drew a fine woollen thread over every hole in such a manner, as to produce a regular flower pattern. By this art, the more

a woollen-cloak is patched, the richer and handsomer it must look;—a very useful hint for poor people I think. Now that I am giving good advice, I will add one hint for the advantage of smokers, which I learned from my dragoman. I have already said that the pipe is lighted here with a burning coal, instead of the less convenient and agreeable slip of paper: when, however, as it may happen in travelling, neither one nor the other is to be had, steel and fire-sponge must be used: before the tobacco is properly kindled, more time is spent than is convenient; to spare the impatient smoker this delay, the Turks only half fill the pipes, then put in the burning sponge, and a little more tobacco over it; this catches fire directly, and the sponge cannot fall out. *Probatum est.*

I did not wish to pass more than a day in Keff; but I was so much indisposed from the effects of the medicine I had prescribed for myself from my travelling-chest, that I was obliged to take advantage of the governor's hospitality nearly a week: he presented me, in this interval, with five lion-skins,—which I mean to keep in remembrance of my journey: on this occasion, he told me that intelligence had been received that war had broken

out between the Bedouins of Tunis and Constantine two days after we had left Hydrah, and a fierce skirmish had already taken place. I must give thanks to fortune, that although as a travelling duty I had not only faced dangers, but sometimes gone in search of them, I had hitherto only seen the flashes afar off; and when the bolts fell, was already *in, salvum.*

This is literally true: a few days since the lightning *in natura* struck the governor's palace; and as the governor himself took this for a sign of divine displeasure against him and his family, his son and the whole harem are obliged to make a daily pilgrimage to the tomb of a holy marabut, to carry presents, and spend several hours in prayer: it was right royally thought of in him to send others instead of going himself.

This holy marabut must have been a comical fellow: he met once with a poor boy, whom he beat almost to death. "Child of fortune," cried he, "dig here to the right under the olive-tree;" and went on his way. The boy obeyed the command, and found two thousand mahabus (gold pieces) buried there. Many antiquities are to be found in Keff, but more under ground than over it. A large temple,

with some fluted columns of the Doric order, is to be seen about a third part above the rubbish; and many antique walls and arches serve as supports and foundation for some miserable dwellings of the natives. Ten large connected cisterns, probably of the Roman period, stand without the town, and are still in such a state of preservation, that even the greater part of the inner ornament, though laid on four or five inches thick, still adheres to the wall.

The most interesting objects in Keff are indisputably the ancient baths, which are of almost inconceivable extent: they consist of a perfect labyrinth of arched chambers, all built of freestone: the inhabitant asserts that they reach half a league under the ground, but this is scarcely credible: they are nearly all filled with water, which feeds the abundant and excellent springs that rise from the foremost chamber, and supply all Keff for every necessary purpose.

We viewed these subterranean vaults by torch-light with the governor, and were obliged to half-undress, and wade up to the mid-leg in cold water, to take a nearer view: but as to penetrate farther we must have forced our way through low passages half-choked with rubbish, and the icy bath was not altogether plea-

sant, we contented ourselves with examining the first five or six chambers, attended by a throng of people, who sprang into the water after us,—an affair of little difficulty to the Arabs with their short drawers and naked feet: they have only to put off their slippers to be fully prepared.

Near these fountains, as the whole range of buildings is now called, stands a fragment of a pillar, on which the before-mentioned marabut, of blessed memory, was accustomed to rest before he went home: the stone is therefore *a posteriori* also sanctified, and any criminal who can reach it is safe from present seizure or future pursuit. He may go thence unmolested to the marabut himself, and either await there a convenient opportunity for flight, or negociate, if he can, his pardon for money.

As I seldom went out in the day, I did not see my host very often; but in the evenings, his brother and son, with Sidi Omar, came regularly to drink tea with me. The latter was generally habited in gold brocade, with gold and silver chains, spangles, and ear-rings, like a little sultan. This pretty child soon became a favourite with us all; and although he had not the slightest idea of bashfulness, he was neither troublesome nor intrusive. Often, when the

little Sidi, in his splendid costume, sat cross-legged by me on the sofa perfumed from the haerem, and as red and white as if painted in enamel; he might have been taken for an exquisite doll from Meissen's manufactory, till he began to speak, when he expressed himself with as much understanding and decision, as far as his limited mental horizon permitted, as any adult person could have done. This child was certainly much better brought up than the greater part of ours are, although he had certainly learned but little, and probably would learn no more; just as little as the sons of nobles in the middle ages. In all that related to Arabian manners, the governor seemed to take admirable care of all that belonged to him, and on this point to heed no expense. In some respects, these people are certainly careless of money and money's worth, covetous as they are in others. I had often remarked this peculiarity, and here I found a notable proof of it.

The governor had taken a Neapolitan fugitive into his service six months before, to whom he gave only twelve piasters a month (not four Prussian dollars) for wages, in addition to his board. Notwithstanding this parsimonious appointment, this man had all the keys of the house in his power, even those of the place

where the money was deposited, which was in a great gaudy chest, which stood in a room that had been given up for my use. The said chest was filled up to the brim with piasters, and ten times a day was I disturbed by the Neapolitan, who came to take out money for the current expenses: he used to take it out by the handful, without my ever noticing that he troubled himself much to reckon it: he often forgot to lock the chest again;—a proof how little he understood the duties of his post, as my servants as well as those of the house might in my absence have filled their pockets, without a possibility of the theft being traced to them. Seldom is such faith found in Israel.

On the day of my departure, the governor, attended by a numerous retinue, escorted me half a league from the city, whence we pursued our way through the level valley towards Tunis, with the superfluous attendance of two Hambas of the Kiâga, as far as our halting-place for the night. One of these men rode a very well-paced white mare, who had reached the reverend age of five and thirty years, and was a present from Hammuda Pasha to the Caïd of Keff.

About two leagues off, we passed some extensive but uninteresting ruins, with a few inscriptions of no importance, and an ancient

bridge, still serviceable over the little river Gautar del Gedieb, where our unbridled horses offered each other battle at the drinking-place, by which our musty trappings suffered considerably.

Five miles beyond this place the character of the country changed entirely: it had run hitherto through mountain and valley various and often beautiful, but dry and bare; it was now for the greater part covered with so rich a vegetation, that we could not unfrequently have fancied ourselves riding in a fine park. On ascending the first rocky slope, as the forest received us by degrees in its friendly shade, we enjoyed a most surprising view. I must beforehand observe, that by forest, in this part of Africa, is meant always, a thicket more or less enclosed, of middling-sized trees and high bushes: the high oak forests, like ours in Europe, cease at Tabarka, and farther to the east are no more seen. These low forests have however this advantage; that they can be more easily looked over from every elevated point, and at smaller distances have the same effect upon the eye as the larger wood.

The tinting besides is very various, and was particularly so in these mountains, where the different transition from sap and steel green

were superbly heightened in effect by a sort of pine, whose needles approach almost to yellow, and are of that perfect golden tint which the sun gives when it shines upon light green leaves.

It always appeared to us enigmatical, that, in this burning zone, and moreover in the hottest months, all the bushes and trees we met with, let them stand on what soil they might, had, with very few exceptions, an incomparably fresher look and softer tint than they have in the summer months in our northern countries, even in England. I have often spoken of the oleander-tree, but I must mention it once more here. In every picturesque tour, we have enough of silvery belts winding through valleys, and so forth; but a broad rose-coloured belt gleaming through a thick verdant foliage of all shades, for the space of half a league together, produced a pictorial effect hither unknown to me; this is precisely the appearance of the oleanders in this part of the country. We should have enjoyed the sight still more if the air had been clearer, and the wind from the desert less hot. My thermometer stood again at 32° Reaumur (102° Fahrenheit) in the shade. At the entrance of Keyp, a valley enclosed within high mountains, at the bottom of which we were to

encamp with the Bedouin Arabs, we again found extensive ruins, among which a beautiful tomb was conspicuous, called very irreverently by the Arabs the "barber's booth." It had the following unimportant but remarkably well-chiselled inscription:—

D. M. S.
M. CORNELIVS RVFVS PIVS
VIXIT AN. IV. F*

We saw great fires blazing on many of the mountains, which had the appearance of burning forests, and learned that they were kindled to protect the grazing cattle from the numerous lions that lurk hereabouts. These animals must certainly have a most agreeable choice of abodes in these endless and almost impenetrable thickets, and where the valleys feed so many herds. We hoped to see some, as it was evening; but none of the monarchs of the forest showed themselves, nor were they heard.

The Bedouin encampment was on the borders of an ancient city, and the walls of some

* I take this opportunity of observing that I became a very negligent inscription-hunter, so soon as I discovered that nothing new or curious was to be found in them. One really feels sorry for the paper when one sees how much useless rubbish of this sort has been printed.

buildings and two gates are still partly to be seen. The natives call the place Sidi Abdraba, from a marabut whose garden is planted in the midst. Within its circle we found the first hips we had seen, and a great number of blackberries; but their fruit was inferior to ours. A beautiful fig-tree, round which they grew, measured ten feet in circumference, and its height and the expansion of its top were fully equal to those of a middle-sized chesnut-tree. My tent was struck upon a hill at no great distance, with the open side towards the mountains, where, as soon as it grew dark, I saw the illumination of the lion bonfires to great advantage. What was not quite so gratifying, was a furious dispute of the two Hambas from Keff with the poor Bedouins, who were cruelly maltreated because they were not willing, or perhaps not able, to provide as well and as quickly for us and our horses as had been desired: it is true that such scenes occur here on all occasions; yet it was painful to me to be the cause, however innocently, of the uproar, which was appeased with great difficulty.

I knew that on the following day we should find the ancient Thugga; but as Shaw, the only traveller who has mentioned it, dismisses

it with a few words, I was not at all prepared to find a place, which, for its environs and the interest of its antiquities, I must declare, unconditionally, to be the best worth seeing of any in the kingdom; its magnificent monuments would have attracted the observation of every traveller, even in Italy. The very first glance raised our astonishment to the highest degree; for Thugga, whose name has in so long a time undergone no farther change than to Dugga, has the finest situation of any city that we had seen; it is built in the form of an amphitheatre on rock-crowned hills, girded with a plain of varying width, on its side again enclosed by high mountains: the greater part of these mountains are overgrown with wood, and the plain is most carefully cultivated, partly laid out in corn-fields, and partly in plantations of olive, of extraordinary thickness and freshness.

The hills on which Dugga itself stands, are nearly covered with a forest of olives, so dark in many places, that the sun can hardly penetrate, and from among whose blueish verdure the imposing ruins of the ancient city stand out on every height and declivity. It is to be lamented, that the modern village is built among the ruins, because it destroys the better part; but, as fortunately the modern houses are con-

structed of rough unchiselled stone, without roofs, have no windows outwards, and the doors are for the most part formed from the fragments lying about, it requires a practised eye to distinguish these decaying walls from those of the ancient city. I myself thought at the first glance, that only the old Thugga lay before me. There is scarcely any kind of building, of which an interesting specimen may not be found here; and every where in the dwelling-houses, pillars, architectural decorations, and inscriptions are to be found. One cow-shed contained in this manner a tombstone and a superb fragment of a pillar bearing the inscription that it had been erected to the honour of the emperor Antoninus Pius; and a little farther off, the yet perfect gate of a large palace, rearing itself high over the modern erection, led to a dark and dirty hole, the abode of the bitterest penury.

Among the ruins, which have a circuit of two leagues, a large temple, with its portico almost perfect, stands conspicuous. At the back the roof had fallen in, within the last ten years, we were told; the gable was yet undecayed. This temple, decorated in the Corinthian style with great richness and elegance, has the form of a parallelogram; its length, including the portico,

is about seventy feet, and its breadth thirty. The pillars, which are all built of one piece and in admirable harmony, are thirty feet high; and at the base, have a diameter of four feet and a half. On the field of the gable on one side is a colossal eagle in *alto relievo;* on the other, the decoration has fallen down: the inscription of the frieze is almost entirely broken off. Shaw has given a copy of this inscription; but, like that given of Spetla, it does not at all agree with the few words that are still legible.

It has an almost touching effect, to find a stork's nest on the point of the gable, directly over the head of the eagle: it was a pity that the inhabitant was at its summer-residence in Europe, where perhaps some of my readers may have seen him stalking gravely about, while we were looking at his empty house. The entrance from the portico to the temple is through a door, whose border consists of three stones only, and yet has nearly the same height as the pillars of the portico. It has the following inscription, which is still quite legible:—

L MARCIVS SIMPLEX ET
L MARCELLVS SIMPLEX RE
GILIANUS S. P. F.

In the back-ground is a niche nearly touch-

ing the roof, where probably the statue of the divinity adored in this temple formerly stood, and at a later period perhaps the high altar, when the temple was devoted to the Christian worship, before men were barbarous enough to destroy it, in order to make room for one of their tasteless erections in the form of a cross. From these, it is true, a new immortality of divine art blossomed forth in Gothic architecture, which however became vitiated even in Italy, St. Peter's being no exception, and the abortions of which still disfigure the greater part of the towns and villages of Europe.

This temple was probably dedicated to Jupiter, as the first word of the inscription on the gable field seems to be 'IOVIS;' the eagle also indicates such a destination. It perhaps owes its preservation chiefly to a phenomenon of nature, or to a superstition, that Dugga is one of the places where no scorpion can live, and none are really ever found here. The Thaleb of the Shechs related a singular fable concerning this peculiarity as we reclined under the shade of the pillars on my carpet: we were obliged to spread it here, upon heaps of dried dung, which covered the floor of the temple, because it was the only shady place; we took however the precaution to lay some

mats obtained from the Bedouins undermost.

"A powerful king and sorcerer," said the Thaleb, "lived here in ancient times, who had a most beautiful daughter. To preserve her from the bite of the scorpions, which then swarmed here, he drew a magic circle in the air around, within which no dangerous animal could live. When the beautiful princess was of a marriageable age, a neighbouring giant, who was also a powerful magician, demanded her hand, but was refused, as an ugly, deformed, and wicked man. He brooded long over schemes of vengeance, without finding a favourable opportunity of wreaking it, because the art of the good king far surpassed his own. On the approaching marriage of the fair princess with a beautiful young prince, whom the fame of her extraordinary charms had brought from a distant country, one of his evil genii instructed him in the following diabolical artifice.

"He changed himself into a female eagle, built a nest upon a neighbouring rock, and laid two eggs, in each of which he enclosed a poisonous scorpion. He knew that the princess was passionately fond of eggs, which were brought to her of all kinds, as there was no surer method of earning her favour. It happened she had

never tasted an eagle's egg, and rewarded the bringer with the most favourable glance of her starry eyes. The finder of this new delicacy was no other than the bridegroom himself, in whose hands the wicked magician had contrived the fatal eggs should fall. Scarcely had the prince given them to her on the evening preceding the wedding-day, than the princess, with the eagerness of a spoiled girl, whose wishes must all be gratified at the moment, desired to enjoy her feast; but no sooner had her tender fingers touched the shell, than the sting of the poisonous reptile darted forth and wounded the beautiful princess so severely, that her life flowed forth with her rosy blood.*

"The tender-hearted prince died a few days after in grief and despair. The inconsolable father built this temple, and caused the figure of the eagle to be represented on it, in memory of this melancholy occurrence: soon after he also sacrificed within its walls the treacherous giant, whom he easily caught by means of the legion of spirits that were at his command. Since that time," concluded the Thaleb, "the custom has prevailed with us, that no bridegroom shall

* The sting of a scorpion does not in general draw blood, but story-tellers must not be dictated to.

see his bride before the wedding-day; and none of our girls need fear a similar destiny, because no scorpion dares come within a league round Dugga."

During this narrative, we enjoyed a water-melon, as rosy, sweet, and spicy as the lips of the princess herself; after which we entered on a farther examination of the ruins,—a task not to be accomplished without difficulty, especially at mid-day, on account of the multitude of stone-heaps, hidden pits, thistles, and thorny figs. We had an enchanting view of the ruins of a temple on the heights, but we had an obstacle of a peculiar kind to overcome before we could reach them: the lately ploughed stubble-fields, full of holes, over which we were obliged to ride part of the way, were in some places split more than a foot asunder, and these clefts traversed the whole ground like a net; it was therefore impossible to avoid treading in them, so that our horses were almost as often upon their noses as upon their legs: probably none but animals as quiet, and as much accustomed to the most detestable roads, could have got on even at the slowest space. To go on foot would have wearied us to death, as the distance was considerable.

We found by degrees the remains of a cir-

cus, great cisterns in three several places, and the ruins of an aqueduct, or gate, or triumphal arch, in a good state of preservation; the traces of a multitude of palaces, a citadel, and other buildings somewhat resembling temples, whose destination is no longer to be ascertained. On the rock that rises over the most smiling part of the valley towards the east, stands nearly the whole amphitheatre, with the seats, and the covered passages under them, of a very considerable theatre, and several detached pillars of an extensive range, which appears to have closed the amphitheatre on the steep declivity: the length of the whole is about 150 feet.

I had never heard in Tunis of the existence of this theatre, nor have I ever read of it; although it appears almost inconceivable, that a place like Dugga, only three days' journey from Tunis, and accessible by a very practicable road without any danger, should be until now pretty nearly unknown both to strangers and to natives. I became the victim of my desire of knowledge or of novelty; for, carelessly approaching too near to an Indian fig-tree, I got five or six large thorns in my arm, whose poison made me suffer severely for several days.

Lower down towards the plain we saw

several mausoleums in the shade of an olive-wood, among which I must mention one as remarkably well preserved and worthy of observation: it is about twenty feet square, and more than fifty high: the workmanship is not extraordinary, but the form uncommonly graceful: it is raised on five broad steps; the under story is heavy, with a door on every side; then again are three steps, on which the second story is set in the form of a temple, adorned at all four corners with an Ionian fluted pillar, and two on every façade which surrounded the upper story. In the interior of both stories are divisions for family coffins; for that this was a Christian mausoleum is proved by one of the greatest rarities in Africa; namely, the presence of four large hewn crosses on the four cubes surmounting the second story; they are placed diagonally in the corners: these crosses had precisely the form of our Prussian national decoration, and are perhaps the only ones which have escaped the fanatic rage of the Mussulmen for destruction: we, at least, found no where else a trace of this detested form; and, a hundred years ago, Shaw expresses his wonder that he had never once met with such.

It appears, that besides the crosses, there were some profane ornaments on the top of this mo-

nument, which are now thrown down: two of them were rather coarsely wrought *haut reliefs*, both of which represent a triumphant figure or warrior, for one dare not suppose it to be the god of day in conjunction with the symbols of Christianity. I was very sorry to find that the inscription on the crumbling sandstone had quite vanished; however, upon the enormous block that served to build this mausoleum, is a Punic inscription, legibly enough engraved, which was unfortunately unintelligible to the whole party, none of whom were acquainted with the language. Wagner was not much in the wrong when he wished to know every thing, thought I; every thing would find its uses. What was more deserving of punishment than my ignorance, was my laziness, which prevented my taking a copy; however, I must leave something for other travellers to do; and they may try how far their self-conquest will go under a similar degree of heat.

In Tabarak, formerly Thibursicumbure, the ruins were, I had in my weariness almost said, thank God! quite unimportant: on the other hand, a very agreeable surprise awaited us in that place: the Caïd had a European cook, who prepared for us a long unseen and very excellent *déjeuner à la fourchette:* but wine must

still be dispensed with, and insipid water from Tunis accepted in its place. The milk diet, as I have before said, had long become distasteful to me; and for health's sake I had portioned out my last bottle of wine for the last fortnight, so that I took only a table-spoonful at a time as medicine.

The scenery assumed a grander character the farther we advanced, and the more immeasurably the verdant forests stretched on every side: in this wild mountain region, mourn the chaotic ruins of Tunga, formerly Thiziba Colonia: the wildly romantic aspect of these remains is not to be surpassed, and suits admirably with the environs. With the exception of a circus, and some objects of less importance, they consist chiefly of a fortified castle, with towers like that of Hydrah, less in size certainly, but in a much higher state of preservation, and belonging to a somewhat later style of architecture; and a superb temple, which, with wild olive-trees growing in every part, now presents an enormous mass of pillars, capitals, cornices, and grand decorations of every kind: every thing contributed to heighten the sublimity of the scene; the twilight had already begun; the sun touched the mountain summits with gold; a sharp evening

wind rustled in the lower heights; birds of prey, of enormous size, flew slowly around; and from the distant forest we heard the roar of the lions, like a faint thunder.

The night soon overtook us altogether, and rendered our march over ground, so abounding in precipices, one of extreme difficulty; nor was it entirely without danger on account of the great number of beasts of prey in the neighbourhood. A lately constructed stone bridge we found broken down, and we were obliged to seek a passage by the feeble light of the stars. About ten we reached Testur, the ancient Colonia Visica Lucana, where suffocatingly hot chambers and a host of mosquitoes gave us little refreshment. They were shooting away in grand style the whole night on occasion of the wedding of a person of rank: not a shot was lost upon me; so, under the circumstances, I gave up all idea of sleep, and spent the night in writing.

At sunrise we went to view the antiquities, which consisted only of the ruins of a bridge and a weir over the Bagrada, which we saw to more advantage than usual as the water was very low; and of some insignificant wall-inscriptions, which Shaw has given on the authority of an old priest. The appearance of the place itself is striking;

its character is very different from that of Moorish towns in general. With sloping tiled roofs to the houses, broader streets, regular rows of windows in the buildings, even a Gothic church, with coloured glass, and the dial-plate of a tower clock, all was European; the dirt in the unpaved streets, however, was quite Moorish. The enigma was soon solved, by the information, that this town, as well as many others which we passed in the course of our journey, had all been built by the Spaniards under Charles the Fifth.

Our last night's resting-place was in Ubsab el Bab, a miserable town, where I found the quarters assigned to me so wretched, that I preferred bivouacking in a garden near the city, although a storm had overshadowed the whole sky, and, sending some flashes of lightning before it, threatened a heavy fall of rain. My tent was pitched under some thick fig-trees, not far from an old triumphal arch, on which two coarsely executed busts in medallions yet remained; and a neighbouring field supplied us with delicious water-melons for dessert after our supper, while the lightning furnished us illumination, and the thunder with music during the repast: we were fortunately spared the expected shower-bath.

Although the land continued to be cultivated, and here and there wooded, yet shortly after leaving Testur, it lost its freshness, as well as the romantic appearance it had before so richly displayed. For a time the scene was animated by the Bagrada, with its ragged banks bordered with silver poplars and elms; then succeeded burnt-up pastures and bare stubble-fields, stretching as far as the mountains. Some of the heights afforded a beautiful display of colours in their aridity, and violet-coloured and yellow sand, that only wanted a border of fresh green to be charming. At this place one of the Hambas stopped me, laughing, to point out to my notice a young cameleon that was passing over the road between our horses' feet; it remained still sometime to rest itself; gazed at us, as it seemed, with astonishment; and looked most pretty and droll in its thorough helplessness. One of the Hambas wanted to catch it, but I would not allow him lest it should be hurt, but rode on. I reflected afterwards, how easy it would have been to take it so short a distance as Tunis; and fretted the whole day after, that I had not brought the comical animal with me as a faithful companion.

It was a most fortunate rencontre, that on

the same day, as we returned towards Tunis, the so-called camp, for the first time commanded by the hereditary prince, Sidi Hammed Bey, had marched out from thence and taken the same road. Near the pleasure-castle of Mornagia we saw from afar the plain covered with tents, the troops having made but a very short march on the first day. Various columns of from seven to eight hundred camels, carrying the whole baggage of the army, as there were only four waggons for the commander-in-chief, were scattered on the surrounding hills, and added to the picturesque effect of the whole very original prospect. I immediately despatched my Mamaluk to announce my visit to the prince, to whom I was to be presented by the Sapatapa for the first time, the etiquette not having permitted it in Bardo. He received me in a very friendly manner, seemed to take a great interest in my journey, about which he questioned me very sensibly, and was evidently gratified with the praise I bestowed on the remarkable objects and many advantages of the kingdom. At my request, he sent a guide with me to view the camp; and gave me an invitation, which I accepted, to rest and partake of a collation in the castle.

The camp was pitched without any measures

for defence being taken, which, in fact, would have been very superfluous here; although for practice sake, our soldiers, so heavily laden and exhausted from the march, must have undertaken that useless fatigue.

The outer circle contained about seventy camps pitched at a considerable distance from one another, in each of which about forty irregular infantry were lodged, who constitute a company, if it may be so called, commanded by two Schausch. Between every two tents stood a huge water-can hung round with carpets.

The cavalry formed the second circle, with their horses fettered along the tents with long ropes; the third was for the cooking, smith-shops, and other places of the kind; then came the circle of the Mamaluks with their horses and suites; in the midst of all glittered the tent of the young Bey, surmounted with two golden balls, partitioned off and arranged with extreme elegance and convenience. The attendants, not only of the Bey and the Mamaluks, but of the whole body of soldiers, amounted to almost as many as the troops themselves. There were no women except a few negro slaves. Every one seemed to wander about the camp at pleasure; no sen-

tinel took any notice of us, nor did we even see one. After sunset, ingress and egress are only allowed at one point, where two twelve-pounders, painted red, yellow, and green, and two six-pounders, equally fine, are placed. At night, a sort of chief watch is established here, towards which the tent of the commander opens; and a broad passage is kept free, that he may see what is going on. It was strikingly quiet in this camp of barbarous hordes, and the best order seemed to reign every where.

The pleasure-castle Mornagia is surrounded by a delightful garden, with beautiful alleys of palm-trees and cypresses, a large basin of water in excellent condition, and several marble fountains right before the saloon where we established ourselves. We were attended by three old Italians, all formerly slaves, who by the adoption of Islamism had, instead of a life of torment, ensured themselves a peaceful age; but as old custom, like old love, does not rust, no doubt they were still good catholics in their hearts. When I asked one of them, where he had been captured, he answered, "In the island of Ponga, forty years ago, exactly at the time of the Ave-Maria."

The few leagues between this place and Tunis were the most troublesome of the whole

journey: since the storm of the day before, which had not thoroughly worn itself out, so violent a hurricane had arisen, that the whole surrounding atmosphere was changed into one cloud of dust, and as dark as night. One of the mules had fallen and injured many things by the accident; and we ourselves, with our hoods drawn over our faces, had some trouble to keep ourselves on our horses. In about an hour's time the storm abated by degrees, and went off in a slight rain. At this time, among the unbroken lines of soldiers and Hambas between us and the camp, we observed two figures in European dresses coming towards us; in one of whom I recognised my excellent friend Don Gregorio, whom neither storm nor hurricane had terrified from coming to meet me. I had sent notice of my coming from Testur, and had prepared a magnificent supper for the pilgrim from the desert. This excellent man is a real ornament to Tunis, and I should never have done were I to relate all the friendly services and delicate attentions I received from him during my whole stay there. I am sincerely sorry that I must be satisfied with making this heart-felt acknowledgment, and that I have no prospect of returning the good Tunisian measure for measure in my native land.

It would be but in its place likewise to return my warmest acknowledgments to my good-humoured and obliging companion, colonel Sczepanowsky, for the pleasure and various services which I derived from his agreeable society. My best wishes for him, and may his future destiny atone for the severity of the past! Among so many sources of contentment, one drop of bitter was mixed with the cup of joy: after my long absence, I found no letters which could give me any intelligence of the few, but therefore dearer connexions I had left at home. On account of the cholera, two ships from Marseilles, which could not show clean bills of health, were sent back to Goletta, and not even allowed to deliver the letters and newspapers they had brought with them; consequently there was no political news. The account of the attempt on Louis Philippe with the infernal machine, and some vague particulars of the successes of the new Sultan, Abdel Kader, against the French at Oran, had found their way here through a Genoese paper. The French consul had received one letter from Malta; but it had lain so long in vinegar, that, on opening, instead of four written pages, only four dyed in ink were found. An agreeable surprise!

Now that I approach the end of this letter, old and dear friend of my youth, you will see that I was not far wrong in announcing it as the longest you had ever received, and will doubtless consider it as the proper representative of the monsters of the desert. God grant that you may not find a little too much in it of the Bedouins and ruins! No one gifted with any imagination can hear of the last without feeling some excitement; and the first have interested me, at least, in the liveliest manner.

If I were to give my opinion of them in a few words, as a *résumé* I should say, they are a people on whom the inborn dignity of man is more visibly stamped in exterior and demeanour than it is with us, and who take a flight beyond us in all primitive qualities; but having through unfavourable circumstances remained stationary on the first step of civilization, the natural impulses, amiable as they must always be, are developed with them in a barbarous and even cruel manner, when unchecked by fear or love. For all that may be added to these remarks, I think I may refer to my more detailed pictures. The Moors have much less that is characteristic, and are much less interesting than the Bedouins, whom they rate extremely low, and consider in all respects

much beneath them: they are no longer the Moors of Spain, but a morally crippled race, who now and then show some traces of the noble blood from which they descend, as they do of their relationship with the Arabs of the desert: still they are no longer capable of any grand soaring impulses, nor fitted for any new and peculiar civilization; subdued by the Christians, they would obtain it only indirectly, and therefore imperfectly. In Tunis, the Mamaluks form a class apart, not a numerous one, but on that account the more powerful: they are the nobility or aristocracy of the court, being all assembled round the person of the sovereign; and, as they are in his special service, they are looked upon as belonging to him. It cannot be said that they are worse than any privileged class would be under similar circumstances: they are mostly distinguished by better cultivation and more refined manners: there are among them some courtiers, who in plausibility, *finesse*, and *savoir faire*, would scarcely yield to any in Europe.

After all I have seen throughout Barbary, both of the country and of the men, I can imagine no nobler, more grateful, or more beneficent sphere of action, and therefore no more desirable existence, than that of a young

prince, who, on the final destruction of the Turkish empire, should be acknowledged as king of northern Africa, from the boundaries of Morocco to the other side of Cyrenaica, by the European powers, out of mere compassion for this neglected quarter of the world.

Fixing his residence at Bona, the favourite abode of the Numidian kings in former times, he would spend his life gloriously, in civilizing the Bedouins, restraining the Kabyles, governing the Moors, and holding a firm hand over all: he would enjoy the high fortune of leading a noble people to a nobler state of existence, of seeing a land which nature has enriched with all that is valuable to man, and which through man's negligence and fury is now nine-tenths desert, become every day more flourishing and magnificent under his sceptre; and, as creator of these highest blessings, would deserve, with his own and after times, the name of the Restorer, better than Napoleon did from the poor Poles. But his reign must begin with the iron age, that of despotic monarchy; and death, either for himself, or thousands and thousands, who must perhaps fall sacrifices to a grand idea, must not terrify him: his jubilee he might perhaps celebrate in a golden age, under liberal institutions. They who would begin civilization

here, with falsely understood humanity and effeminate mildness, are fools: inexorable, unrelaxing severity; full impartial justice, combined with moral and physical coercion to labour,—these alone are wanting to this people, in order to set in full operation the mighty levers of fear, love, and self-interest. Every other attempt will fall to the ground, for they are not founded on knowledge of the world as it *is*, but on an absurd and empty ideology. Algiers has already given us the first commentary. Providence could not give me a greater pleasure, than by making such my destiny in my future human existence, in which I am a firm believer; and bestowing on me at the same time the necessary qualifications; until then, I must be contented with the less dignified but perhaps less onerous business of a wanderer, whereupon I make the following remark:—

As man in his mid-life always wishes it had hitherto been only a sample life, and that he might with his acquired experience begin all over again, and be ten times more virtuous, and far happier than he knew how to be before; so ought we I think to go six months upon trial, when we wish to become acquainted with a foreign country, before we begin the grand journey. Mine I can only look upon as such a

sample tour, and as a feeble forerunner to the grand expedition of an honoured successor.* In this sense let me be allowed to give the respected individual some domestic advice concerning matters, that I, from want of experience or reflection, for the most part neglected.

As to understanding, knowledge, talents, and health, of course every one must bring these ingredients with him; and I have nothing to say about them, except, perhaps, how the latter may be preserved. To this end I counsel, fisrt, that instead of paltry dietetic rules, which must vary with every individual, to take a real live physician, who is at the same time a surgeon: he will, *eo ipso*, provide the necessary medicine-chest, which, to save room, I should advise to be a homœopathic one.

Secondly, nothing is more desirable than to have a good artist with one; and for the sake

* If it were our former ambassador in Naples, the excellent Numohe, he is not only a great antiquary and connoisseur, an excellent artist, and charming writer, but also, theoretically at least, the first cook in Europe; and if he succeeded in reforming the Moorish as he has the German kitchen, he would deserve many blessings. As in culinary matters he prefers every thing prepared *au naturel*, he would have a fair field for his system, where the art as yet is so little corrupted.

of economy, it would be well if he and the physician could be one and the same person.

Thirdly, let the traveller be better provided with books than I was; namely, with the works of old authors, and the charts of their departed world, in order that by a few suitable quotations he may be able to show his learning at a cheap and easy rate. The transport of many men and much baggage, according to the prevailing mode of travelling here, and the established arrangements, is no very great charge,—I mean, with regard to expense; and taking many is not much dearer than taking a few.

It will also be well, in the fourth place, to take a good sportsman for pleasure, and who at the same time should be clever at catching and preparing insects, and skilled in stuffing the larger animals; and for use, he ought to be attended by an accomplished groom, who must know so much of the veterinary art as to shoe a horse or let him blood: to cure him completely, the worthy doctor must lend a helping hand. How important a person is a cook educated in classical principles, I have already illustrated in my note.

Fifthly, in addition to all those things that every gentleman takes with him more or less when he travels, he must add the

following:—One or more tents, a field bed with mosquito curtains, a field table, ditto chairs, a compact *batterie de cuisine*, and all the vessels and concomitants for breakfast and dinner; the necessary number of very solidly made canteens, as big as a mule can carry; five or six thick water-jars, that can be locked up; a convenient English apparatus for freezing water, or at least making it ice-cold; a little filtering-machine; a considerable quantity of the celebrated hermetically sealed provisions of all sorts from Nantes, whence sea-faring people have procured milk that was as good eight years after as when first milked, which must certainly be looked upon as one of the finest discoveries of the age: of wine, liqueurs, dried fruits, bouillon, lemonade preparations, and so forth, I say nothing, because there cannot be too much: above all, I earnestly recommend the traveller to take with him a well-made rope-ladder, not, as the light-minded may think, for climbing a harem, to be spitted afterwards for the short-lived pleasure; but because I myself felt the want of such a thing a hundred times when viewing old monuments: it ought to be so long, as, in case of necessity, to reach over a triumphal arch; that when the master ascends on one side, the servant may hang on the other, to balance him.

Sixthly, let care be taken to provide the best possible weapons, with all their appurtenances; but they need not be so well packed, as is sometimes the case, that they cannot be found till a quarter of an hour after there is a necessity for using them.

Seventhly, and most important of all, let the traveller provide himself in Europe (most easily in Paris) with a chest of presents for every body, from the sovereign to the lowest Bedouin: I recommend particularly watches of different kinds, useable commodities in amber, ornaments in mock-gold, and false stones, chains, rings, necklaces, and ear-rings, (avoiding the form of the cross,) all sort of coloured things, toy-like and tasteless, which are no where difficult to find; with a great number and variety of snuff-boxes. I believe I have forgotten to say before, that the Bedouins seldom smoke, but that all, even little children, are passionately fond of snuff: but the boxes should not be ornamented with pictures, unless it be the picture of the great Napoleon; because such representations are not in favour, and are contrary to the precepts of their religion: farther, cheap silk handkerchiefs for ladies, foulard, and imitation of Cashmere; knives, scissors, coral and glass beads, as well as rosaries of all compositions; perspective-glasses, and

kaleidoscopes, if possible with a showy exterior; little looking-glasses, and elegant trifles in pasteboard and paper, hot pickles (a great delicacy for the Arabs); good English gunpowder and weapons, such as sword-sticks and daggers, but never simply made. Their real goodness is a matter of indifference, if only, good or good-for-nothing, they are abundantly decorated with gold, silver, or stones. As to fire-arms, they are rather to be chosen without than with percussion-locks, especially when the latter are without caps. Little contrivances to show some kind of trick, and some conjuring apparatus, to astonish the natives, and put them in good humour, are also to be recommended.

Thus furnished, and with all that has been mentioned, abundantly provided, the traveller may bid defiance to the deserts, and will not only be highly honoured wherever he appears, but by a generous division of presents among all classes bestow the greatest pleasure, and be remembered with gratitude; always provided that he looks before him, and does not get his throat cut. This kind of trading may even turn out a good speculation, as the worth of the presents he receives in return from great people, costly pipes, horses, mules, wild beasts, Turkish weapons, lion and leopard skins, and so forth,

may probably far exceed the value of those given; and the traveller may have the satisfaction of thinking that he has some portion of the only good quality much in request at present—industry.

I believe, dear Schefer, I have now exhausted all that can be required from my capabilities; and, as a faithful and very diligent labourer, who has for eighty long days borne heat and burden under an African sun, on horseback and assback, and, besides this, written a sheet for you on an average every day, I beg to take leave till farther notice; and will only add the sincere assurance of heartfelt attachment and high respect, with which I am

Your devoted friend,

* * * *

## TRAVELLING JOURNAL.

(CONTINUATION.)

Tunis, August 30, 1835.

THE morning after my return, I went to pay my respects to the Bey, to offer my sincere thanks for the many kindnesses and attentions I had met with from him. He received me privately, not altogether without curiosity, but in a very friendly manner. However much care is taken by princes and courts in this part of the world to omit no species of form at the beginning of any intercourse, so much the more familiar and unceremonious do they become, when once convinced that they will not be over-reached or treated with disrespect; both of which they have often been, unfortunately, by Christians.

In the ardour of conversation, the Bey went so far on this occasion, as to ask me whether I had written much on my journey, and committed all my experience to paper; a striking incident, as every one will acknowledge who knows any thing of Mahommedan manners, and their former indifference and ignorance of such matters. He laughed heartily when I told him, "His Highness knew that we Chris-

tians had contracted the evil habit of not being able to live without wine;" and also when I described my calamity in being reduced for a fortnight to take the juice of the grape by spoonsfull only, like medicine.* I had at last the satisfaction of obtaining the Pasha's promise to issue his commands, that in future no antique remains in the country should be injured, or applied to any other purpose: he also gave me permission to apply directly to him, in case any German colonists should be inclined to settle in the kingdom of Tunis; and appeared not indisposed, if things went so far, to make some exceptions to the laws prohibiting Christians from acquiring property here. I have no doubt, that if the business were properly handled, his highness would be well disposed to cede a large portion of the best land for a very insignificant remuneration, in full property to such settlers; and I am, at the

* It is well known that the Mahommedans are at present as well inclined to do justice to wine as we are ourselves. The late Bey was a little too fond of it for his health. On one occasion, when he was ill, one of the consuls sent him four bottles of port wine, as a strengthening medicine; and heard the next day, to his great terror, that it had nearly cost the patient his life. His highness had drunk the contents of the whole four bottles at a sitting!

same time, fully convinced that such a speculation would be much more richly rewarded here than in America: but the plan must be carried into execution on a large scale, and with considerable capital, to insure a brilliant success.

Marsa, September 8th.

All the resident consuls, as well as my other friends, have vied with each other in overwhelming me with civilities since my return; and I have made use of the leisure I shall enjoy for a short period, to accept the repeated invitation given me by the English consul to pass some days with him in the country.

Sir Thomas Reade is a rich and amiable man of the world; his lady, the pattern of a highly cultivated English mistress of a family—*et c'est beaucoup dire;* and his house is admirably arranged, which had a double charm for me after my long experience of the Bedouin fare. It may be easily supposed that I passed a very agreeable and "comfortable" week: I had also the good fortune to find here Sir Grenville Temple's new work on Barbary, which bore testimony to the truth of my delineations of the Bedouins during my journey.

With the exception of Dscherid, which the season and the prevailing disturbances rendered

inaccessible for the time, I went over nearly the same ground as Sir Grenville; and now that I have read his description, I may safely say, that our accounts often confirm, rarely contradict, and, in many points of view, complete each other: for example, mine, making little pretension to fulness, is very poor in copied inscriptions, and Sir Grenville's extraordinarily rich in that respect. In like manner, I have often omitted the names of many duars and of different Bedouin tribes; and given a very summary description of many ruins, and avoided (perhaps too much) quotations from old authors: in all these points Sir Grenville has been far more careful, industrious, and copious.

On the other hand, my narrative is more irregular, and, yielding more to fancy and the impression of the moment, is perhaps somewhat richer in picturesque delineations of nature and of man. I would by no means have it understood, from what I have just said, that I advise those who have read Sir Grenville's work, to read mine also; but on the contrary, that, like myself, they should at once draw amusement and instruction from this very agreeable and meritorious book. I will however take this opportunity to remark cursorily, that in speaking of Sanfar, Sir Grenville, read-

ing the word *Assuras* for the name of the city *Assura*, has palpably gone astray in his hypothesis concerning the former appellation of the place. I may observe the same of Thala, when he supposes that he has discovered the old city of that name; although the quantity of springs around, which must certainly have escaped his notice, prove directly the contrary, according to his own quotation from Sallust, as I have before mentioned in the text.

I also willingly acknowledge that my own suggestion, that the city in question may have been the former Tucca Terebintha, is equally unfounded; as Sir Grenville, I think, on probable grounds asserts that he has discovered it farther to the right. Unfortunately there is so little gospel here, and the old geographers are so incorrect, that without indisputable inscriptions from the places themselves, as at Sanfar, some doubt must always remain. In the end, these inquiries belong rather to the lovers of such things for themselves, than answer any real purpose, when there are no geographical or historical riddles to be solved by them. Except in this point of view, what is dead and past possesses value and interest only inasmuch as they are again reflected in the present;—a principle, which I, in my own person, continually

maintain. To make myself more intelligible by a comparison; historical occurrences are the raw material, the historian first elevates them to real history. This brings me to the library of Sir Thomas Reade, which contains so many interesting Arabic books and manuscripts: I hope to give pleasure to the friends of oriental literature, if I subjoin a list of them, which I mean to follow, on another opportunity, with some extracts from No. 60, the Romance of Delhamma. The kindness and readiness with which Sir Thomas imparts his treasures of this kind (and he has many) to the visitors of his charming villa, heighten the value of a hospitality in the best English style, itself one of the varieties in this part of the world.

LIST OF THE ARABIC MANUSCRIPTS IN THE POSSESSION OF SIR THOMAS READE, ENGLISH CONSUL-GENERAL AT TUNIS:—

1. A work on Riding and the Art of War. 2. On the Goodness of this and the other Life. 3. A work on Medicine (the first page wanting). 4 and 5. Two Commentaries on the Koran. 6. History of the Prophet. (Three Parts.) 7. Do. Do. (beginning wanting.) 8. Prayer Book. 9. Arabian Grammar. 10. Miracles of the Saints. 11. Novels of Seif

Ellvagel. 12. Hadschi Baba's Grammar. 13. Treatise on the Saints. 14. A Persian Manuscript. 15. Commentary on the Attendant of Mohammed, and on the Difficulties of the Koran from the year 916. 16. History of Joseph the son of Jacob. 17. Instruction in the Learning of Rena, or the Art of Fortune-telling. 18. History of Africa since the time of the Romans in Carthage. 19. Kady: the Art of examining Things. 20. Various Considerations upon Religion. 21. Miscellaneous Poems and Subjects. 22. Hadschi Hammudá Ben Abd Ellagia's History of the Reign of Ali Bey. 23. A Treatise on Politeness. 24. The Principles of all the Sciences. 25. On Religion. 26. On Chemistry. 27. Commentary on the Honour of the Prophet. 28. Natural History. 29. Four Parts of a History of the World. 30. Hadschi Hammudá's, &c. &c. History of Tunis. 31. Tract upon Religion. 32. On the Religious and Social Law. 33. On Religion. 34. On the Arabian Language. 35. Abnú Haldun's Histories (incomplete). 36. A Dictionary. 37. On the Arabian Language. 38. Sidi Haled on the same. 39. A third ditto. 40. On Arabian Poetry. 41. Another work on the Arabian Language. 42. History of Egypt.

43. Treatise on the Mahommedan Law. 44. On the Arabian Language. 45. Letters in Arabic and Turkish. 46. On Religion. 47, 48, 49, 50, and 51. More Commentaries on the Arabian Language. 52. On Religion. 53. Sixteen Parts of a Universal History. 54. Prayer Book. 55. The Koran. 56. On Religion. 57 and 58. Arabian Language. 59. Thirteen Parts of the Romance of Antar. 60. Three and twenty Parts of the Romances of Delhamma of Nadschi Ibn Hischan.

One may say that this gentleman keeps open house for strangers of his nation, so that any who are remarkable among such visitors are sure to be met with there. By his means I had the pleasure of making the acquaintance of the officers of the sloop Orestes, and of the young commander captain Codrington, the son of the celebrated admiral, and himself one of the most agreeable Englishmen I had ever met with. At the tender age of sixteen he fought at the battle of Navarino, where he was twice wounded. When mentioning this circumstance, he told me that a pretty spaniel bitch, which he always has with him, and who often amused us by her tricks, had also encountered the dangers of the fight; but had contracted such an aversion for fire since that time, that at the first cannon-shot on board the ship, she

always hides herself in the bottom of the hold, and never makes her appearance again till the smell of the powder has disappeared;—an anecdote I willingly repeat, for the pleasure of those who take as much interest in the *naïveté* of animals as I do.

One day I was conducted by my obliging and accomplished host to visit an old Moor, who had reached the astonishing age of one hundred and eight years. I was astonished to see an extremely handsome and excessively clean old man, whose countenance and features of the noblest cast scarcely showed a wrinkle, and whose silver beard and figure, clothed in Turkish garments of dazzling whiteness, presented a most imposing whole: in intellect he had become perfectly childish, and is regularly nursed by his wife, a Russian by birth: it was remarkable, that he took no other nourishment than milk, and was quite unable to walk. Thus in a purely natural way does the human organization at last completely and regularly end where it began. He could still hear and see perfectly well, but the only habit that remained of all his former ones was that of snuff-taking.

When we entered, Sir Thomas's daughter, Miss Margaret Reade, a charming little girl of nine years of age, who had galloped with us over stock and stone on her little

pony, gave her hand to the old man, and spoke to him in Arabic: he laughed heartily, and summoned up some words that no one understood. On our departure, he saluted us in a friendly yet dignified manner: an expression of dignity is the only one of his otherwise immoveable physiognomy.

The relation in which this man stands to Sir Thomas is very remarkable. On the appointment of the English consul about eight years before, Hasch Junis was in prison for a considerable sum owing to the late Bey: the intercession of Sir Thomas was begged in his behalf: he hesitated for some time to mix himself up with business of this nature, but compassion at last prevailed; and, seizing a favourable opportunity, Sir Thomas at last preferred his request to Sidi Hassan. The Bey listened to him smiling, and summoned his secretary, in whose ear he whispered something: after a time, the secretary returned with a paper, to which the Bey affixed his seal, and then put it up: he began to speak of other things, and Sir Thomas understood that he had received a silent refusal. As he was taking leave, the Bey took the paper from his pocket, and put it into the consul's hand, saying, "Here is a little remembrance; get it interpreted when you go home."

Sir Thomas was equally surprised and de-

lighted, when he returned home, to find himself in possession of the Bey's acquittance for one hundred and seventeen thousand piasters, the sum for which Hasch Junis was imprisoned, —accompanied by an order for the restoration of a considerable part of the old man's confiscated property; which ensured him a competency for the remainder of his days.

This was certainly acting in a manner worthy of a sovereign; but Sir Thomas detailed to me at great length a still more striking proof of the late Bey's generosity.

My kind readers will perhaps recollect Jussuf's story of a Sicilian nobleman, who was surprised by some Barbary corsairs while on an excursion of pleasure, and with his whole suite carried into slavery: this was the prince of Palermo. The sum of one million five hundred thousand piasters, which was demanded for his ransom, and which the Neapolitan government had guaranteed, had remained unpaid, under a thousand and a thousand pretexts; as late as the year 1825 it was not yet settled: at that time, and at the request of the Neapolitan government, Sir Thomas received orders from his court to use all means to bring this business to a conclusion, and, if possible, to obtain some reduction of the exorbitant sum demanded. Sir Thomas hastened

immediately to the Neapolitan consul, Don Renato di Martino, to make him acquainted with a fact which he naturally supposed must be very agreeable to him: this seemed however to be by no means the case; on the contrary, he was assured by the Neapolitan, that the moment was not yet arrived when this very difficult and intricate affair could be brought to a negociation. Sir Thomas then contented himself with offering his services, and left it to the Neapolitan minister to seek a favourable opportunity.

Five years passed away; and notwithstanding all memorials on the part of the English minister, the business was not concluded. There appeared to exist somewhere a hidden cause for this delay; and, in fact, Sir Thomas afterwards found that Don Renato had every year drawn three thousand piasters in hard money from his government, under the pretence of a present to the minister of the Pasha, in order to make them keep silence on the subject of the debt. Sir Thomas now resolved to act alone. Without a word to the Neapolitan consul, he solicited a private audience of the Bey; and when he was received by the Pasha, surrounded by his confidential servants, he begged his highness to dismiss even these, and allow him to speak with him alone. The Bey

granted the request immediately, led Sir Thomas into his cabinet, the doors of which he locked himself, and then desired Sir Thomas to speak freely.

When the consul had opened his business, and spoken of the personal wishes of the English monarch, the Bey, who had listened with the greatest attention, opened the door, and ordered his son to bring him a red box from some secret place he indicated in his sleeping-room: when it was brought, and the prince had departed, Sidi Hassan took a small key from his bosom, and, giving it to Sir Thomas, said, "Here is a list of all the sums owing to me; search yourself for that of the prince of Palermo." The consul quickly found it, and delivered it to his highness. "Now," continued the Bey, "I believe myself to have the most perfect right to make this demand. I cannot make any abatement, for I am not a merchant; but I will not allow any opportunity to escape me of personally obliging the king of England, and therefore I shall have a pleasure in making him a friendly present of this writing."

With these words, he put the paper into Sir Thomas's hands, who could scarcely find words enough to thank the Bey for his magnanimity:

he only begged of the Bey to keep silence on the subject till he had communicated with the respective powers. The Bey gave his promise, and kept it so well, that neither any member of his family nor his minister heard of it till April, 1831, when an autograph letter of acknowledgment from the King of England to the Bey was received. Sir Thomas received great commendation, and the commander's cross of the Neapolitan order of Francisco the First. The consul for that power now learned for the first time what had taken place, and came, full of consternation instead of joy, to his brother consul; for, at the same moment that the Bey had secretly renounced his claim, Don Renato had drawn the yearly sum of three thousand piasters for the pacification of the minister, and in consequence gave himself up for a lost man. Sir Thomas, however, succeeded in arranging the business at Naples; Don Renato remained, and died consul at Tunis; and the post is now, I believe, filled by his brother.

It is a memorable instance of ingratitude, that Sir Thomas has never received one word of acknowledgment from any of the Palermo family for the great service he rendered them.

It is not alone in pecuniary matters, that

Sir Thomas has used his credit for the advantage of the suffering: he had also the satisfaction of saving the lives of two poor young people, a Jew and a Moorish woman, whose forbidden intercourse had been detected. The Bey himself could only save them indirectly from the legal punishment, on which the priests obstinately insisted. The woman was sent to the Kerkinas; and a Mamaluk appeared one morning at Marsa with the Jew, and a message that, "The Bey had sent Sir Thomas the individual whose life he had saved, to be at his disposal." As the Jew was under French protection, and Sir Thomas was not then on good terms with the consul of that nation, he delivered the Jew to M. Gai, a French merchant, whose letter of thanks I have read.

It may be seen from these anecdotes, how tractable the Barbarian powers are, when their confidence is won, and the manner of dealing with them understood. I did not remain so long in the house of Sir Thomas Reade, without having frequent conversations with him about Napoleon: he even showed me some things relative to St. Helena, which convinced me anew of the utility of the precept—*Audiatur et altera pars.* However, I am not now going to enter upon that controversy; I shall only observe,

that, granted Sir Hudson Lowe was in the wrong, his adjutant and friend could scarcely act otherwise than he did; and the various affidavits of the several officers prove how greatly O'Meara exaggerated in his account, and represented every thing according to his own views and prejudices: that Napoleon perhaps in some measure, from political motives, had irritated the governor in various ways, was just as clear: yet this is no excuse for the officially expressed resentment of Sir Hudson Lowe; and the world will always be of opinion, that with respect to the occurrences at St. Helena, the reputation of Napoleon suffered less than that of England, or rather of her then government. Private persons, who only carry the orders of a government into execution, cannot reasonably be called to account for them.

Among other things I gathered from Sir Thomas,—three struck my attention, relating to Napoleon:—

First, that when he was opened, he was found as much in flesh, as if (according to Sir Thomas's jocular expression) he had been regularly fattened up; whence the English, at least, may draw the conclusion that they did not let him want.

Secondly, that his heart was much larger than it is usually found.

And thirdly, that he would admit no priest when he was dying, and one was only brought in when he was half-unconscious; which does not quite agree with the declaration of Napoleon, which Macintosh found so original. *Je me conforme au culte par politique,* said the emperor, I forget to whom; *mais au reste je ne suis pas tout à-fait sans réligion.*

September 16th.

The comfort that surrounds me, and the freedom of an agreeable country life, almost persuades me that I am in good old England again. Every thing is conducted in the same style; the social breakfast; the pleasant rides in the company of the lovely children, Miss Margaret and Mr. Tom; the solid dinner with iced champagne and excellent claret, with the necessary conclusion of a glass of Madeira, which has passed the Line; all these are never wanting: and when I add, the cheerful evening conversation over the tea-table, a chosen library, a house richly provided with all English conveniences, and, before all, the ready but never-wearying hospitality of my charming hostess;—

it will be admitted, no element to the enjoyment of life is wanting.

But, as every thing has its time, I was obliged to think of my departure, however kindly I was pressed to stay: and although I could not leave Abdelia (the castle of the English consul) without regret, Sir Thomas did not let me go without a present, the most valuable that he could have made me;—a beautiful table formed of marble fragments dug out of the ruins of Carthage. Mine, which is round, has a well-executed *fac-simile* of a Punic coin, in the possession of the consul-general, set as a medallion in the centre on a black ground; around it is a tasteful mosaic of the costliest antique marbles,—in every respect a highly-prized memorial.

One thing more I must mention, because it relates to a subject of universal importance. What has always particularly pleased me in respectable English families, is the free, liberal, and natural kind of education they give their children;—an education, to which I ascribe the more vigorous physical constitution, and the greater moral self-dependence which manifestly distinguish the English (the educated class particularly) from other nations of the continent. I saw here a boy of six years of age,

who, without the slightest detriment to his childlike demeanour, bore all the traces of a freely developing manliness, like the rich buds of a plant sound to the core. This tender child rode out with us every day, only watched from a distance, so that he could scarcely have observed it; he was otherwise left to his own discretion and courage. On one occasion his horse shyed, ran across the field, and threw the child, to my great terror, upon the thick low-hanging bough of a fig-tree; but who was more relieved than I, when I saw the little fellow, instead of screaming for help, hold on to the tree with some difficulty by the left hand, and, quietly allowing his horse to escape, plucked a couple of the best figs with his right, and then spring down as if nothing had happened? I used to call him the little general after this, and secretly acknowledged the advantages of liberty, even for children.

Another honoured friend, and another highly esteemed family, to whom I am equally indebted for many kindnesses, awaited me only a few thousand paces farther; and the same evening I left Abdelia saw me domesticated in the agreeable villa of M. von Nyssus, among those beautiful flowers with which the reader is already acquainted. During the last month the

house had been twice attacked by some stranger rabble, and M. von Nyssus himself was fired at, almost *à bout portant*, with a pistol, as he was opening the window: the young ladies fled hither and thither like doves when a vulture swoops downwards on them; and ten or twelve shots, fired by their brothers and other individuals of the establishment at the slowly-retiring robbers, all missed. The affair made a good deal of noise in Marsa, and opinions were much divided respecting the object of the attempt: some ascribed it to vengeance, others to furious love, and the family itself to thieves. If the unknown come a third time, we will do our best to receive them properly.

Sanit il Daschasch.

Hitherto the most perfect quiet has reigned in our country-house. I have taken possession of the apartment before occupied by the young ladies, in which the robbers twice attempted to force their way from a neighbouring terrace: my solitary night-light and open windows have not yet invited a third trial. I have found here the idyl after the epic; it is the true representation of the two countries; I mean of Holland after that of England; the same conveniences and good living, the same freshness,

and scrupulous thorough-Dutch cleanliness: with respect to the kindness and attention shown to *me*, neither family can be surpassed; and when to these I add that of my friend De Montes, I may well say, that I never left an abode with deeper feelings of gratitude than I experienced on severally quitting these three houses.

We are still in Tunis, like people upon an island forgotten in the course of time, to which the way is no longer known: the insufferable quarantine continues with the same severity, and it is nearly half a year since any one has heard from their European friends. My host was longing to see his second son and son-in-law from Holland, and is now obliged to wish that they may *not* come, lest they should be sent back again with their business undone. Last month, a Frenchman had made the voyage to visit his mother, whom he had not seen for twenty years: the poor woman could only distinguish his blue surtout, and send a greeting through a speaking-trumpet, because the Marseilles vessel that brought him was compelled to quit Tunis, and sailed for Malta. It was rejected there also, and ordered back again to Tunis. Repulsed at Tunis a second time, there was nothing to be done but to

make the best retrograde movement, and return to Marseilles. In a vaudeville, such a journey might be represented in a very amusing manner; but, in reality, it must have been no small trial of patience. The son-in-law of M. von Nyssus, whom I mentioned above, is the witty composer of the *cantate* which I have given in an earlier part of this book; and the history of this young man is, in my opinion, rather remarkable, because it contains one of those incidents, which are scarcely noticed at the time, but which decide the whole course of life for weal or woe.

M. Humbert, a young lieutenant of little property and less interest, came here as adjutant to lieutenant-colonel Franke, of the Dutch artillery corps, which the Bey had invited here for the construction of the Goletta. Having once expressed some opinion depreciatory of the lieutenant-colonel, perhaps rather too warmly, the latter conceived so much ill-will to him, as to declare that he would have no farther intercourse with Humbert; and if no notice were taken of his conduct by the government, the lieutenant-colonel was resolved to return to Holland. Hammuda Pasha arranged the business, by taking Humbert, with the consent of the Dutch government, into his own

service, and employed him to measure the capital, with a view to encircling it with walls, and in other less important fortifications in the neighbourhood. Although this occupation gave him sufficient means for the present; yet for the future, and at last necessary return to the Dutch service, he had but a very limited career to look forward to.

After some time passed in this manner, accident brought hither as prisoner, in a corsair's vessel, a Benedictine father, Felix Caconi. M. Humbert found an opportunity to do him some small service; and in return, the father, who had noticed that Humbert had a great taste for the study of coins, proposed to give him some regular instructions: the offer was accepted; and by degrees their inquiries extended over the whole field of antiquarian pursuits. In a few years, the scholar went beyond the master, and began to apply his acquired knowledge practically, by collecting coins and objects of *virtù*, as far as his means extended: in course of time this collection became considerable, almost unique of its kind. The Dutch government heard of it, and showed some inclination to become purchasers. M. Humbert left the service of the Pasha, who was no longer in want of him, shipped himself and his cabinet

for Holland, where he made so good a bargain for them, that it was not only the foundation of considerable wealth, but procured a lucrative and very agreeable appointment for life from the government. At their cost, and for the increase of their collections, he passes his life between Italy and Holland, in the manner most gratifying to his taste—in continual travelling, and considers himself as a very fortunate man. It seems very evident, that without the capture of the good father, M. Humbert would have remained his whole life a poor hard-working *capitaine du genie.*

As M. Von Nyssus communicated these details, he gave a picture of that period of slavery, which must excite real feelings of bitterness for the mean policy of the European powers at that time, in every human bosom; for if England and France had not found their private advantage in the existence of the piratical states, how long, defenceless as they are, could they have maintained themselves, to the disgrace of Europe? It must be acknowledged, that the barbarians made use of their advantages in a grand style of insolence. The following anecdote from the consular papers is a remarkable commentary:—

A French sloop had arrived in Algiers, and

soon afterwards the officers took a promenade through the city: passing by one of the forts, one of the Christians was assailed with mockery by the soldiers sitting before the gate, one of whom went so far as to insult one of the officers by an indecent gesture: the officer insulted, while wearing the full uniform of his sovereign, struck the Turk in the face, which occasioned a general uproar: the commander of the fort effected a momentary truce, and desired the French officers to return to their ship, until he had made a report of the affair to the Dey. When the Dey was informed that one of the Frenchmen had struck a Turk, he flew into a violent rage, and, without farther ceremony, ordered the French consul to be brought to the harbour chained by the leg, in order to answer for the behaviour of his countrymen: the consul endeavoured to excuse them and himself as far as possible, and to show that they had not been the aggressors: it was of no use; the Dey, without listening to any thing farther, ordered the consul to announce to his government his peremptory demand that the officer who had struck the Turk should receive fifty blows on the soles of the feet, according to the custom of the country; and that they should be inflicted on board

the French ship, in the presence of a Turkish commission and the injured party; in case of a refusal, he should from that moment consider himself at war with France: *and this demand*, after some feeble attempts to have the sentence commuted, *was acceded to by the French government!* After the execution of the punishment on the unfortunate officer, the commander of the ship, who had been looking in agonies over the sea through his telescope during this scene, dashed the instrument at the feet of the Turks with such violence that it flew in pieces, and then blew out his brains!

This took place in the time of the *good* Louis XVI.

Tunis, 1st October,

Eight days ago I returned, to be harnessed again to the yoke of city life, and to breathe the foul air of the capital, instead of inhaling the fragrant atmosphere of Marsa. Tunis, considered as a Moorish city, is a great one, considerable even in a European point of view; and as far as European society is concerned, as like a little country-town as possible. Ridiculous disputes, and gossiping of all sorts, have caused so many quarrels between families, that a stranger has great difficulty to keep

himself neutral between the hostile powers, without making an enemy of either, because he has accepted an invitation from a rival; or prevent his banishment from one house, because he has returned a friendly greeting from an antagonist. What was most astonishing to me, was to see that the consuls, who, without this, are tolerably isolated and deprived of amusement, should live in the same state of squabbling, envy, hatred and jealousy; and, most undiplomatically, push this so far, as even to renounce the merely official intercourse with each other! The weaker, of course, must come off losers, and the respective governments themselves must sometimes suffer for it. This appears to me to be exactly the sore point;—what envy declares, reason cannot admit.

• With us, the title of consul is of little significance; but here, from their peculiar reference to a half-barbarous governnent, to which in some measure they give the law, the consuls form a very influential diplomatic corps, have a very lively sense of their own importance, and make exclusively the aristocracy of European Tunis: among them are some very cultivated and clever men; of course, there are others less so; and there are some, of whom it is difficult to imagine how their government could

make such a choice. Individuals of the latter species have, no doubt, by their arrogance and exaggerated pretensions (from them, of all others, least bearable), given real cause for discontent.

The most extraordinary stories are told of one of these little consular despots, of whose absurdities a whole book of ——*ana* might be written. I should scarcely believe, if I had not seen it myself, that this agent constantly subscribes his decisions and passports: *Donné dans le palais de nôtre residence à Tunis; Nous, &c. &c.* What increases the ridicule is, that this high-trotting "residence" consists of a little miserable, ill-smelling house, as the houses in Tunis always are; and the consul himself, accredited for a second-rate power, could under no circumstance play the master here, although the representatives certainly do exercise a nearly despotic authority over individuals of their own nation. They decide in all law-cases in the first and last instance. I was shown a sentence of this kind from the manufactory just mentioned, beginning in the same royal style, *Nous, &c. décretons, &c.*; on which the wags did not fail to remark, that fifteen years ago, when the consul began his career from a very humble station, he would doubtless have written *décrottons*, instead of *décretons*.

All this pretension, instead of imposing, can evidently produce nothing but ill blood, especially when contrasted with the *present* mildness, and, relatively considered, the modesty of the barbarian rulers of the country. These also may be sometimes in fault, as people here assert, not altogether unjustly; and have shown a degree of susceptibility not less founded on pride: in short, the result of the whole, as I witnessed, was not only an almost complete separation between the Tunisian grandees and considerable merchants, and the consular circle; but among the latter themselves, there was such a division caused by all kinds of squabbling, that few families are to be found who do not prefer enjoying their tediousness alone, to entertaining one another, and contributing to mutual pleasure, as they did formerly. The grounds of some of these chemical separations appeared to be characteristic enough. A bitter complaint was made in the town circles, because a consul had once brought a stranger to a ball, who, as a handsome young man and excellent waltzer, had danced with almost every lady present, and who afterwards proved to be a Jew!*

* The balls here are sometimes very comical: among

Another singular circumstance is, that the vice-consuls (I was told this by a consular lady) consider the refusal of a challenge as one of their *privileges;* and therefore when an individual, not living within the enchanted circle, receives an affront from a vice, it is in vain to call him to account, because custom and privilege prohibit him from fighting: of this there are numerous examples. I pass over many of these as too personal; but the greatest absurdity of all is, that one cannot live in the atmosphere of contagion without catching the disorder, and taking part one way or the other; for man has a natural tendency to caballing, as those acquainted with mankind every where discover. I would not, therefore, break a lance for the Tunisians, and only endeavoured, as long as I was there, to act as prince of the peace, sometimes successfully. To play my part of observer faithfully, I close this article with a droll story, which made the last town-talk in little Tunis, and perhaps justifies in some measure the dignified exclusiveness of the consular circles.

There is a merchant here, whose name trans-

other things, the music is peculiar: the drum generally figures as chief instrument!

lated into German would be Eater, a very worthy and pleasant man, who has a very pretty and agreeable wife;—knows how to enjoy life; likes a good table, as his name would announce; and drives a little trade with France for wine and other good things.

Not long ago he received from that quarter a box of *saucissons d'ailes*, at the same time that another merchant of the name of Bauch (stomach), who has also a pretty wife, and, like a sensible man, has no objection to the pleasures of the table, expected a consignment of Bayonne hams. As ill luck would have it, the boxes were changed at the custom-house. Mr. Bauch was the first to notice the error, and sent the opened box to Mr. Eater, with a request for his hams in return. A merchant has sharper eyes than another when his goods are in question, and Eater immediately observed that one of the *saucissons* was wanting, which he conjectured, justly enough as it appears, had remained with or in the stomach. Like a man who knew the world, he thought it best to take the law into his own hands, opened the box containing the hams, and made himself master of a corpulent slice, principal and interest, and sent the remainder to Mr. Bauch. Unluckily, the parties met the same evening at a coffee-house, when

Mr. Bauch, irritated by the too ample satisfaction exacted by his antagonist, reproached him with great vehemence: from reproaches they proceeded to abuse, and from abuse to blows; and at last a regular fight with sticks ensued, but without decided advantage to either party.

Thus ended the affair of honour with the gentlemen: but the ladies were not yet satisfied; and over what took place between them a veil is thrown. It is only known that they had a meeting, no doubt with seconds, at the farther end of the Marine; in consequence of which, Madame Bauch was invisible for a few days. What weapons the ladies made use of,—whether the seconds, according to ancient custom, fought with them,—all these particulars are unknown; but to preserve the analogy of the quarrel, they were, perhaps, armed each with the respective *corpus delicti*, and it is not impossible that Madame Bauch suffered from a rencontre with the fated sausage.

Such passages of fisty-cuffs have occurred more than once in consular society: it is not long since that the former Danish and the former American consuls became so far heated by the witty diversion of pelting each other with bread pellets, that the sturdy republican hurled a whole loaf at the head of the Dane:

the missile hit the mark with such force, that the learned consul fell from his seat, and will preserve the seal from this unusual weapon as long as he lives.

By the side of these not very sanguinary contests, which were for the most part decided with eatables, two real murders and a shipwreck are quite in their place here: the first have completely the colouring of this country; the latter concerns an individual for whom I feel a great interest. I ought, however, first, in justice to observe, that society in Tunis is by no means so warlike as might be supposed from the anecdotes I have given.

There is one young man here, whom we were accustomed to call the crocodile, because the name of that early Egyptian divinity seemed particularly suitable to him: the said youth was only too courteous, and afforded a touching instance of devotion to this admirable virtue; for, on one occasion, when the consul entrusted him to do the honours of a fête at his house, the poor crocodile so exhausted himself in reverences, that in making the last, which, to his misfortune, was called for on the steep threshold of the house-door, he fell and broke his leg. The unlucky crocodile has been lame ever since, without losing a particle of

his politeness in consequence; and, if Tunis were a Christian city, I would advise the choice of this martyr to his excellent dispositions, this peace-warning contrast to quarrelling and brawling, to be adopted as the city-arms; the crocodile himself to be offered up as a scape-goat for the errors of the little townsfolk; and the latter to enjoy life henceforth in peace and harmony; even if a visit were not returned till eight days after; or a neighbour's house were better furnished than one's own; the female friend better dressed, and therefore somewhat triumphant; or the handsomest man paid his court to her.

Let me now proceed to the other criminals whose story was promised.

My first landlord in Tunis was a Jew; and in his house I accidentally met with a beautiful woman of the same persuasion, who, like many of the Tunisian Jewesses, led rather a free life. She was very original, and had superior understanding; so that I always met her with pleasure: my horror may then be imagined, when, returning one morning before sunrise from a little *impromptu* ball, I came upon a wailing group, in the midst of whom lay the disfigured corse of a richly-dressed female,—it was poor Rebecca! I quickly learned what had hap-

pened: she had passed the night on the terrace of a rich Moor, with whom her connexion was well known; the wife had probably been informed of the circumstance, and thus wreaked her jealous vengeance; for the body of the unfortunate woman was found dashed into the street before the house.

The second instance bears the oriental stamp quite as strongly: a subaltern in the newly organized regiments had a dispute with a Maltese workman; and the Aga, colonel of the regiment, deciding in favour of the Maltese, sentenced the officer to five hundred blows on the soles of the feet: the sufferer, who was rather of a feeble constitution, nearly died under this cruel infliction, which so excited the fury of another Turk in the same regiment, that he resolved to sacrifice his own life for the pleasure of revenge. With us it would naturally be supposed that the colonel or the Maltese would have been the object of his resentment, but they seemed never to be thought of: he merely took his dagger quietly in his hand, with the intention of striking it into the breast of the first person he should meet in the habit of a Christian.

With this view he bent his steps towards Luck, where he met a poor predestined Neapo-

litan tailor, who had arrived at Tunis for the first time that morning. While the Turk was murdering him, a Jew hard-by sprang to the assistance of the shrieking victim, and he also fell a sacrifice to the Turk's compassion for his own countryman. The Turk rejoiced in the highest degree to have offered up two unbelievers instead of one; saw herein Allah's finger plainly manifest; and neither attempted to fly, nor offered the least resistance, when he was brought bound before the Aga.

On the question being put, how he could have murdered two innocent men in cold blood, he explained the grounds of the action, and added, "I have long seen that the Christians are at all times held to be in the right, and thy decision to-day was an equal injustice. As thou art either unwilling or unable to make us respected by those unbelieving dogs, I have taken that business upon myself. Now let my head be laid at the feet of the Bey, and the sooner the better; and he——— I laugh at it." With this coarse invective, the madman concluded his speech, and was committed to close confinement as a preliminary measure; but as he has been now in prison for fourteen days without receiving a definitive sentence, his life will probably be spared.

I come now to my third narrative. The story of the unfortunate Bedouin girl from the duar near Bona, whose love-affair with a young French officer cost her so dear, has often recurred to my mind; and I heard, with equal sympathy, of the fate of the same officer, who was said to have found a watery grave in the shipwreck of the Mabruck in Biserta. I lately discovered this to be an error; the young man had escaped almost by miracle, but had lost all he possessed. Nothing could have occurred to please or interest me in a higher degree, than an opportunity to make the acquaintance of the hero of these two adventures.

I met him a short time ago in Tunis: he was an agreeable and cultivated young man, rather melancholy, gentle, and vigorous, such as ladies love. The shipwreck, as well as his presence in Tunis, proved in the end fortunate circumstances; for, by the active interference of the French consul, one of the most distinguished men in that body, he was not only amply recompensed for his losses by the Bey, but was shortly after betrothed to a rich and amiable girl, who has found means to cast the painful recollection of the Bedouin girl quite in the back-ground. A fortunate duel at the same time had rendered him still more interesting;

and I found him in the most agreeable situation possible, which however had not entirely obliterated the traces of his constitutional melancholy.

At my request, he imparted to me, from his journal, the history of his last misfortune, and allowed me to insert it in my own. I have given this little extract literally, that its character might not be altered :—

"March 16th.

"I am expecting with impatience, in Bona, the departure of the Moorish vessel that is to take me to Biserta, where I am called by pressing business. The Raiss came to me, to announce that the ship will weigh anchor to-night. I had my most valuable effects immediately carried on board; but when I followed and saw the ship, I could scarcely believe that it was really proposed to venture to sea in such a bark; and yet my worthy Raiss assured me very seriously, that he was ready to sail with it round the world. As I am any thing but an experienced seaman, I resign myself, and am trying to get installed, as well as I can, in the stern of the cabin in this fragile vessel. All my travelling-companions have assembled by degrees; they are, for the most part, Jews and

Maltese, accompanied by a crowd of women and children, all of them endued with a smell, that, united to that of the tar and dried fish, gives me an agreeable foretaste of the pleasures of the journey.

"At eight the ship was in motion, with good weather, and the wind in her stern.

"This wind has increased to a storm; the sea is running very high; I feel the sea-sickness, and observe little that is going on.

"The sea rages; our vessel pitches horribly. The women are wailing, and every now and then shriek with terror. I am suffering so much, that I am indifferent to the danger, which I now begin to suspect.

"I felt instinctively for my dagger, which I had put in the box of my Czapka, but could not find it. I scarcely know now with what object I sought to use this weapon, but I think it was a vague intention of ending my life by its means, in case of the ship foundering.

"A tremendous shock and a fearful cry roused me at length from my apathy. The greatest confusion prevailed on board; every one thought his last hour approaching, and rushed towards the opening that leads to the deck. We were in perfect darkness, all the lights being extin-

guished. The water increased in the vessel; in a moment we were knee-deep: I confess that I thought the ship on the point of sinking. I recollected myself, and endeavoured to force my way onwards, which was not accomplished without blows right and left; for these miserable Jews and Maltese (the one calling on God, and the other on the Virgin) are quite beside themselves.

"One of the sailors, in groping about with me, at length discovered the leak, through which the water gained upon us; we succeeded in stopping it with a large woollen cushion that I found lying about. We had only a single pail on board, to bale out the water, which greatly incommoded us: it was impossible to sit; we were obliged to keep ourselves on our feet cooped up in that narrow space. I went on deck, that I might be better enabled to judge of our real situation: the night was pitch-dark; the rain, mingled with hail, fell in torrents; the storm raged; the wretched vessel lay completely on her side, and her edge nearly touched the water: it seemed impossible that she should ever right again; every thing that was not secured rolled into the sea. The ship appeared sometimes to be on her beam-ends, and then sank heavily again into the depths; enormous waves threatened us with instant de-

struction: the vessel rose again, as if impelled by an invisible power, on the bosom of the waters, and then dashed anew into the abyss. Unacquainted with the terrors of a storm at sea, I had at the commencement supposed that every minute would be our last; but I grew at last accustomed to it, and even felt a kind of wild pleasure in every new shock that succeeded the creaking of the vessel. I fancied myself engaged in personal conflict with the waves, and the thought cheered and animated me.

"The sailors, whom I had left engaged in pumping, now demanded to be released, as none would assist them: there were but two on board, and the help of one on deck was absolutely necessary; the assistance of a passenger was therefore asked, but none would grant it: as my entreaties were of no avail, I seized the pail myself, and began the labour in hopes of stimulating the rest; but I had to do with wretches utterly devoid of that sense of honour one is sure to find, even in the lowest class of Frenchmen. They allowed me to work very quietly; and when fatigue compelled me to desist, no one would take my place. Losing all patience, I tried the experiment of kicks and cuffs, but with no better success: I was at last

so enraged, that I was on the point of throwing one of the worthless Maltese into the sea; when poor Bogo, a friend who had accompanied him, who was lying half-dead with sea-sickness, held him fast by the legs, and thus saved him from becoming food for the sharks.

"Four in the morning: the gale, which had appeared to slacken, recommenced; the helm was useless, and no one could keep his feet any longer. All those who were on the deck tied themselves to something heavy; a Jew, who had chosen an empty cask for this purpose, rolled with it into the sea: I was almost torn away from my fastenings, and fell below among a heap of praying Jews: the vessel righted once more, as if by a new miracle; and I returned to my post of baling out the water; it was still a foot deep on board. At this moment a fresh gust of wind twisted the latin sail (*voile latine*) completely round; the vessel stood still on a sudden, and presented its prow to the wind. The captain and his son then threw themselves on the sail, and succeeded in returning it to its former situation; otherwise, as they assured me, our destruction would have been inevitable.

"The day now began to dawn, and allowed us in some measure to restore order: the sea

however still offered a fearful spectacle, and we flew along with frightful rapidity. The sudden shocks ceased, the danger seemed to be over; and as the harbour of Biserta became visible at three in the afternoon, some rays of sunshine led us to hope for a complete change of weather. It may be easily imagined with what longing we beheld the towers of Biserta: new black clouds, gathering in the mean while threateningly in the horizon, boded us no good. In a short time the storm howled again in all its former fury; our two sailors were so much exhausted, that they could hardly execute the orders of the captain, who sat continually at the helm with a tolerably steady countenance.

"At five we reached the entrance to the harbour; and a new cause of anxiety arose, as this passage is dangerous with the lightest wind: all held their breath in expectation of what was coming; the deepest silence prevailed;—I shall never forget that solemn and critical moment; how were we to make our way through the raging mass of waters, that rose like a tower before us? It was necessary to set every sail, and ours were insufficient. A violent crash announced the failure of our last hope; the rudder was broken; and we were the sport of the waves, unable to give any farther

direction to the vessel: we threw out an anchor; and hailing the inhabitants, who now began to fill the mole, through a speaking-trumpet, we desired them to send us a rope: the danger was so great, that no one would run the risk: at last, by the offer of a large sum, the French consul prevailed on three Moors to make the attempt. In the mean time night came on, and our situation grew more desperate, as the anchor was evidently giving way; and we now saw with certainty the moment before us when our vessel must strike upon the rocks to the right-hand. With inconceivable difficulty the three Moors had succeeded in reaching us; but scarcely had they time to throw themselves into our vessel, before the planks of their boat parted. The rope they brought with them was thrown to a sailor to make fast to the cable, and thus be towed into the harbour; but the unhappy wretch, as if confounded by the evil spirit, secured the rope to the vessel itself, instead of to the cable, which it was too weak to hold, and it snapped asunder directly: the cable gave way, and the storm drove us every minute upon the rocks.

"We had still time to set the sails once more, and, contrary to our expectation, got out to sea again. We were approaching a sandy shore,

where we hoped to let the ship run aground with less danger; but as we could no longer direct her course, she veered round, offering her long side to the shore; and stuck fast on a sand-bank in the midst of the heaving billows.

"Our situation was now hopeless; in a few minutes the vessel must inevitably go to pieces. Five of the passengers threw themselves into the sea; my poor friend Bogo was one of them: they disappeared almost immediately; not one reached the shore alive. Still unresolved what to do, I remained clinging to the stern of the ship, against which the giant waves broke, and dashed over me with such force, that I was several times nearly choked. I at last attempted to reach the fore-part of the vessel, in the hope of securing a pocket-book of great value to me; but scarcely had I, with the greatest difficulty, taken a few steps, when a fresh wave carried me with it into the deep. As I am a tolerable swimmer, I hoped, on rising again to the surface, to be able to gain the shore. My uniform, made heavier by the water, impeded my motions. By the help of my spurs I contrived to get rid of my boots; and, straining every nerve, I was on the point of touching the shore, when another wave carried me back again. It was at this moment I bade, with the deepest grief,

farewell to my earthly existence: I was too much exhausted to swim any longer: all that the instinct of self-preservation admitted was to throw myself on my back, and endeavour, by a feeble motion of my legs and elbows, to keep myself above water; as half in a dream, I felt something fall upon my breast, and then lost all consciousness.

"But my last hour was not yet come. One of my feet was seen above water, as I was again washed towards the shore, by an individual who threw himself into the sea for my preservation; and a few minutes after I had expected death, I was again restored to the living. I had lost every thing that I possessed; and an obstinate fever, the consequence of what I had gone through, still hangs about me.

"Blessed, notwithstanding, be the shipwreck that has conducted me to the arms of my sweet Helena.

"P.S. I had forgotten to say, that in the most critical moment, the ship was torn from the sand-bank and thrown on the flat coast, when it went to pieces in a few minutes, and was swallowed by the waves. This short truce, however, was sufficient to enable the greater part of the passengers, with their wives and children, to save themselves."

Tunis, 10th October.

I made another valuable acquaintance in the person of M. Honnegar, a German architect, to whom I am obliged for the clearing up of some doubts with relation to the inscriptions I have copied; and also for some sketches of maps. M. Honnegar unites, to unwearying diligence, all the knowledge and talents most desirable for a traveller in these parts of the world. After a residence of two years in Tunis, and many excursions into the interior, he has made himself a perfect master of the Arabic language, and has formed the gigantic project of making a journey over Timbuctoo, through the centre of Africa, across the mountains of the Moon, as far as the Cape of Good Hope. It is known that an expedition has set out from the Cape, with a precisely opposite view, if I may so express myself. It is not impossible that the two parties may meet.

The prospectus of the travels already accomplished by M. Honnegar, will shortly appear in Germany: the work will embrace many subjects of art, as well as ancient and modern history of the country, geography, natural history, &c. &c., from which department hitherto very little has been drawn.

I will only notice beforehand, that M. Honnegar thinks that he has discovered, deep in the Atlas mountains, the quarry whence the Romans obtained the Giallo antico, and the true lotus-tree of the Lotophagi, which he describes as large with glossy dark-green leaves, and the peculiarity of striking fresh roots from the downward-hanging branches: the fruit is shaped like a cucumber.

13th October.

A Greek and a Turkish wedding, at which I was present within the last few days, furnished me with a new and rather singular spectacle.

The first was the wedding of the interesting shipwrecked French officer, and so full of ridiculous ceremonies, that the Greek priest himself joined sometimes in the general laughter. The crown of wood and ribbon on the head of the chasseur-officer *looked* as extraordinary as the priest's exhortation, that he should be *submissive* to his wife, sounded. During the whole operation both bride and bridegroom held a burning taper; and before the ecclesiastic put on the rings, he pressed them on different parts of their bodies; and then, singing aloud, led the bridal pair ten

or twelve times round the table: to support their strength during this long promenade, they had bread and wine given them previously. The ceremony was concluded by a general kissing of the whole company.

The Jewish solemnity was still more singular. When we entered the room, which was crammed full of ladies and gentlemen, (the latter with their hats on,) we observed, opposite to us before the window, a table, whereon, upon cushions, sat a female figure ornamented with gold and precious stones, with her eyes closed, and her legs stretched out to the corners of the table: she was so motionless, that I really took her for a waxen puppet; but it was the bride *in propriâ personâ*, supported on either side of the table by an old woman, who chased away the flies, wiped the dew from her forehead, and performed any other necessary service. During the whole ceremony the lady was obliged to maintain the same lifeless appearance, and dared not even start when a wine-glass was dashed to pieces at her feet, after the dirty Rabbi had drunk out of it.

In the evening, she was conducted, with a hundred lighted torches and a great retinue of blackguard boys, through all the dirty streets

of the town for a full hour, still with her eyes shut, till they were at last set free in the bridal bed, which awaited her in the richly-furnished house of the husband. The next day she again took her seat in the same style in her new house; this time with her eyes open, but subjected to another kind of inconvenience,—namely, that of rising every half hour to assume a new habit. When she was planted on her cushions in the richly-decorated apartment for the third or fourth time, an ox was dragged in with no little noise and tumult, and slaughtered before the eyes of the company: this was effected by cutting its throat; —an operation, that sprinkled the costly carpet with blood.

But the most original figures of all were those seated round the table where the marriage-contract was to be signed: first, there was the father of the bridegroom, — a long, starved-looking, ashy pale man, with red bleared eyes, a shabby old round hat upon his head, and wrapped in an antediluvian blue great-coat that hung down to the ground; next to him sat his son, a handsome robust young man, very elegantly dressed in the newest Parisian fashion: the contrast of his appearance to that of the two votaries was striking.

The brims of little three-cornered hats, of the date of Hammuda Pasha, shadowed caricature-expressive faces, which no water had approached for years, decorated with bushy eyebrows, and beards hanging down to the breast; their throats were encircled with thin, ragged, red handkerchiefs; as to the colour of the much-patched waistcoats and greasy drawers, it was no longer discernible: shirts they did not appear to possess; the spindle-legs were partially covered with woollen stockings full of holes; and broad well-trodden shoes, with large buckles and huge soles, completed the remarkable costume of these Jewish functionaries.

The last person at the table was a Rabbi, who looked exactly as if he had been rolled in the kennel before he entered the house. The bride herself was very handsome, and her naked arms, legs, and feet were dazzlingly white and beautifully formed: for our taste, she was perhaps rather too corpulent; which looked the worse, as she had no stays on, and her virgin bosom already began to yield to the law of gravitation.

15th October.

It is an extraordinary fact, that the air of cities never will agree with me: I have been here scarcely three weeks, and health and cheerfulness are hourly diminishing. I have been tormented some days past by an abominable rheumatic fever, which in this climate sets the whole blood in a flame. Last night, an intolerable headache, and the excessive restlessness it engenders, produced an extraordinary effect upon me: while I was tossing uneasily from side to side, unable to obtain a moment's repose, the thought of total annihilation occurred to me as a thing to be desired for the first time in my life; and when towards morning I fell into a kind of half-slumber, I thought a spirit offered me the gratification of my wish, if I had the courage to accept it.

"I grant thee yet an hour to pause upon it," he added; "let thy choice be free to the last moment." But at that last moment, the dreary thought appalled me, and I recalled my frenzied wish. A laugh of fiendish scorn rung in my ears; the features of the spirit changed to those of the evil one; the claws of a giant hand griped me fast, and a dreadful voice thrilled fiercely through my head: "Have then thy wish, fond fool; live then

for ever to endless torment and damnation!" It was a dreadful phantom of night and sickness. In the day-time I philosophized on the subject: "Yes," I said to myself, "we are immortal: in everlasting alternations of joy and sorrow, we must exist, we have existed, from eternity to eternity; and the surest proof of this is, that no person, be he who he may, would exchange his spirit, his real identity, for that of another. Our bodies, and all that relates to outward form, we would willingly barter for a better, but no one would barter his soul if he has one; not if he were offered that of Socrates, while he himself stood at the gallows' foot; or that of Cæsar, or of Napoleon in his might, while he were pining in the fetters of a slave. To nothing but the eternal, would man thus cling under every condition. But eternal remembrance of the manifold apparitions of that being in time and space is by no means a consequence of its eternity. Exactly the contrary seems to me alone possible; and every other belief a folly, to which only the rude, childish, earthly sense, that still clings to its first impressions, would adhere. Such a delusion must vanish before mature reflection, and clear self consciousness,—even experience,—negatives it; for, do we know what we have

been, and can an immortal spirit be created in the woman's womb, by the will of the father and the mother? Absurd!"

30th October.

Some poisonous mildew must have fallen on me; my body becomes weaker and weaker, my soul more deeply plunged in melancholy! my whole system is so highly excited, that every, even the slightest change, causes an instantaneous emotion of terror, grief, or anger, according to the circumstances; yet with all this physical weakness, my head remains firm enough, rather to meet destruction, than to renounce a positive will, without previous conviction of the justice of renunciation. The desert must have been the cause; for the desert I long ceaselessly, for its high starry vault, its boundless freedom. These shallow worldly pursuits, this terrible every-day life, before which all well-being and all desire of well-being withers, is becoming more and more unbearable. But there is yet another longing, which I am almost ashamed to write down;—a phantom akin to madness torments me: a hundred times I have tried to shake it off, but it will not let me rest.

Well! perhaps among my readers may be found a friend! To him I will turn: perhaps it

may relieve my foolish heart to lay it bare before him.

Do you remember then, my unknown friend, —turn back a few pages, and you will find the place;—do you remember the little cameleon that crossed my path by the Bagrada; and that I neglected to bring it with me, although it looked so expressively at me with its beautiful sparkling eyes; and more than once stopped in its march, as if it would have confided something to me, but had no words at its command?

This enigmatical being — this most certainly enchanted creature, haunts me day and night: is it a fairy that magnetizes me in this form, or has a sun-stroke injured my brain, unconsciously to myself? I know not, but this strangest of fancies plays its juggling tricks incessantly around me, shadowy by day, more distinctly by night: in all my dreams the cameleon appears, often under the strangest circumstances, the most enchanting forms: one night, her form is traced in fire upon my heart; it was as the loveliest of women: who could live with her—who see her without loving her? And yet she belonged to another —to *a friend.* Belonged! vain delusive word. Is not slavery banished the whole civilized world, and shall woman alone remain subject

to it? A woman belongs only where she has freely given her heart; and only so long as he, to whom it is given, knows how to keep it! The contrary is a violence to sacred nature, and is barbarous. Thus I argued with myself, and heedlessly intoxicated myself with the sweet poison.

Ah! how kindly her dark eyes looked upon me! what enrapturing smiles played round her delicate mouth! feeling gushing from her innermost soul; an angel's sweetness, and the most seducing expression of feminine playfulness; an ardent earthly spirit, sporting in an atmosphere of heavenly brightness—all was pictured in her glance, and a fever of delight and sadness quivered through me under their magic influence.

O happy dream! so breathed in freshness around me a spring of bloom and fragrance, when a sable cloud, a snow-storm, from its bosom descended, desolating and annihilating all, and spread a white pall over all my joys.

Days often passed over—days of life and death—days without end, like the torments of the infernal deep: then I thought I was tossed on the wide sea, and lay in darkness, burying my face, and bathing my pillow with bitter tears, and listening unconsciously to the words

that burst from my own breast—"She belongs not to thee."

Woe to the man who has a heart, and to whom the world with all its rocky stubborn prejudices, and the martyrizing duties born of them, stands in opposition: he must destroy where he loves, or must become himself the victim.

I awoke, my eyes still wet with tears, as if the ardently beloved object were lost through my own and yet my unavoidable fault.

How will this end?—Then again, I thought, my haunting notion was not so altogether void of reason. Is not the cameleon, sporting in its hundred lively hues, and changing without motive, under the hand in playful humour, the real representative—the very quintessence of the whole female sex; and have I not a large portion of these elements within myself? Does there not lie a deep meaning in the spirit's assumption of this form?

If I were not too sad, I could extend this comparison between the sex and the cameleon much further: cannot this creature see on all sides, and even behind? and where is the woman, who did not perceive in a moment the effect of her charms, wherever it sought concealment?

And then what is the most important—the most powerful member of the cameleon? The tongue, I should add; and *that* the fairer half of human kind knows how to wield with still greater power. But the jest dies on my tongue!

Sweet, enchanted being! would that I had thee once more!—Would that in winter's cold I could warm thee in my bosom! Peace, self-possession, happiness, would again visit me with thee!

Leave me,—mad, foolish visions!

# SUPPLEMENT EXTRAORDINARY.

TO THE HOFGERICHTSASSESSOR,

HENRY SEIDEL, M——.

Tunis, October 30, 1835.

You will forgive, Sir, the liberty I take in addressing this letter to you, although I have not the honour of being known to you: it relates to an individual named Semilasso, whose medical attendant I had long been, and who at length was lost sight of while labouring under a fit of high nervous excitement, which offers a curious study for the faculty, and has come to a most mysterious end. As this singular person had a distinct presentiment of his fate, he had desired me to send the thick manuscript that accompanies this letter to your honour, within whose honourable jurisdiction he had enjoyed the privilege of living.

The deceased left no other property; indeed, between ourselves, he departed as poor as a

church-mouse; which calamitous situation he in some measure had apologized for, by saying that he had long been a Silesian landholder. He never explained himself very fully with respect to his family: I once heard that he had a brother, but it does not appear whether he be dead, or still living in Germany: I have not been able to learn whether or no he may not also have left an innocent offspring, or other attached relatives, to bewail his disappearance.

He assured me that he himself had been a graceful and excellent author, whose loss would be much felt, particularly in Berlin, a place he never mentioned but with profound emotion. I am almost afraid that the assurance he gave me, that the above-mentioned manuscript would be more than enough to remunerate me richly, was, in itself, a proof of a disturbed intellect: I hope it may prove so! for, with all the disinterestedness which I may safely assert has always distinguished me above my brethren, I feel it to be a sacred duty to provide, not only for myself, but for a numerous family, and I dare not hesitate to press their indisputable claims: I take the liberty, therefore, to enclose my little account.

To what I have already said, it is now my melancholy task to detail all the circumstances

that led to M. Semilasso's untimely and unexpected departure from this sublunary sphere.

I must begin by informing you, that there is in this city a person named Tabakio, who is deeply involved in the business: he was formerly clerk to a carver or tobacconist, I do not know precisely which; then became connected with the customs; and is now, after having bought and sold to great advantage, advanced to the diplomatic line.

Considering the progress which has been made in the culinary sciences, it was natural, that, after mastering the preliminary studies of Puffendorf and Gagern, M. Tabakio should be aware that in his future career his cook must play a principal part: unfortunately, he had neglected to imbibe the '*Almanach des Gourmands*,' *in succum et sanguinem*, at the same time with Hugo Grotius; and thought, as might be supposed from his former condition, that it was enough if his table groaned under the weight of the viands, and the repast lengthened as much as possible. The misguided individual adopted, with other enemies of the human race, the detestable custom of giving twice a week very bad and never-ending dinners, which were soon reckoned among the public calamities of the capital of Tunis. A

still greater peculiarity of M. Tobakio was the settled notion that he had got—Heaven knows how—into his head, that these ignoble crams must, according to diplomatic etiquette, be given in especial honour of some particular person; and as this person was generally selected with the same curious want of tact that distinguished the poor man on all occasions, more persons were affronted than flattered at these banquets.

Fate would have it, that our lamented friend should receive an invitation to one of them, without his having the faintest suspicion of what he had to encounter: neither was he aware of a fact, of which we have had before many examples; namely, that in this hot climate, the inevitable tediousness of such meetings, if they are prolonged a moment beyond the bounds of moderation, may be the death of a nervous person, especially when the food is of bad quality.

Before the commencement of this ominous dinner, which might with great truth be called M. Semilasso's execution-feast, the guests, consisting of several merchants and consuls, with their respective ladies, besides my friend and myself, were obliged to remain a whole hour in a fresh-painted room, the smell of

which was almost unbearable,—a very bad preparation for dinner. When at last the cook was ready, the very servant who announced it (probably a shopman disguised in livery) seemed so extraordinarily rejoiced, that he leaped up with both feet like Punch before us all in the ante-room, and then shrieked "*Servito*" through the open door of the saloon, with the voice of a triumphant Stentor.

Semilasso, already somewhat confounded by manners so new to him, held it his duty nevertheless, as the only stranger present, to give his arm to the lady of the house; when M. Tabakio, in great embarrassment, sprang forward, and told him the dinner of to-day was given in honour of the consul, N. M., who, of course, would also conduct Madame. Semilasso stared at him! "Here is my lovely niece," added the diplomatist, zealously; "you will be content with her to-day; but," with an obsequious smile, "you will not suppose this is my last dinner; allow me to assure you, on the contrary, that my next is to be given in your honour, when consequently no one but you will lead Madame Tabakio to table." "Good heavens!" cried Semilasso, colouring, when he saw every eye fixed upon him, and with a bitter-sweet smile that told me he wished himself far-

ther; "it is all the same to me which companion is destined for me: however, there has certainly been some mistake; and as you yourself have informed me that the dinner is not meant for me, but for some one else, I cannot have the happiness of conducting either your wife or your niece; but, with your permission, will go home again."

O that he had kept this salutary resolution! he might still be in existence. But he good-naturedly allowed himself to listen to the jargon of our extraordinary host, who poured forth apologies; and, seizing the hand of the lady of the consul, who had been declared hero of the feast, marched into the dining-room. Notwithstanding this complaisance, I did not fail to remark in him the expression of extreme vexation and melancholy presentiment.

It was a full quarter of an hour after this ridiculous scene, before every one had found and taken the seat allotted to him by ticket; and then, hot and heavy as the blast of the desert, began our long trial of patience. Hour after hour passed over in wearying monotony. My suffering friend could neither refresh himself by sleep, nor abandon himself to his own meditations, for the dull chatter going on

around him. The dreadful monster *Ennui*, like a nightmare, seemed to have overshadowed him with his sable wings, and to take a malicious pleasure in slowly crushing him beneath them. In his increasing anguish, he unfortunately thought, as he afterwards related to me, that he was not hungry; but gaining courage from the unappeasable appetite of his beautiful neighbour, who silently despatched one loaded plate after another, he began to eat likewise.

A ham in a rapid state of decay, and fish dressed in spoiled oil, soon relieved his too fastidious palate from similar trouble. He tried the assistance of wine; but some misnamed Johannisberg caused him to make such wry faces, that no longer hoping for a remedy, he in his already delicate and excitable state gave himself silently up to despair. As a physician, and one skilled in the soul's disorder, I was, perhaps, the only person in company who judged rightly at this fatal moment: unfortunately, no immediate help was in my power: at last, (for all things must have an end,) approaching night brought release, but too late for my unhappy friend!

He had scarcely strength enough to stagger home by my assistance, where he immediately took to his bed: in a short time, a violent ner-

vous fever robbed him of all the understanding he possessed, and which never again returned, but in homœopathic doses: in his delirium, nothing escaped him but broken words, all having reference to the melancholy catastrophe: "Horrible *ennui*" — "Pitiless Tabakio" — "Abominable ham"—"Arch-traitor Johannisberg"—"Murderer of innocence"—"Cook deserves a halter," and similar nonsense, which convinced me more and more of what I had long held to be the incurable disorder of the patient's mind.

As a consequence of his malady, I observed, that our friend's raven hair, whose beautiful colour had been celebrated in a newspaper article, (which a Hebrew *dilettante* of this place caused to be inserted in the 'Marseilles Semaphore,') had become white within the last three weeks—a circumstance not unusual in great sorrows. I must mention in addition, that, in the same article, the extraordinary fear was expressed—"that M. Semilasso, who passed in Europe for a bad satirist, had perhaps come to Tunis with the intention of making money at the expense of the society there, as he had before done by the English aristocracy." Hence the *dilettante* concluded that this stranger was not so liberal as he would have it believed; as a quarrel about

precedence, that had taken place shortly before, seemed to prove. As a German, I could not help laughing heartily at this passage: Kotzebue's little provincials immediately occurred to me, where the Burgomaster cries out, in his vexation with Sparrow, "Good heavens! what will the minister, what will the whole court and city, think of Krähwinkel, when they learn what has taken place amongst us?"

As to the mistake about precedence, it was not possible: your honour has read the whole story, which probably gave rise to the report among those ignorant of the circumstances.

To return to our sick friend: after a long fit, the physical functions indeed appeared restored; his mind however continued in its former state, when, one morning, M. Semilasso suddenly disappeared.

It was not known what had become of him; till some Bedouins, who inhabit the ruins of Uthina, reported that on the evening of the second day after his absence from Tunis, a man, who looked very ill and unhappy, had been met with on Friday, towards evening, having a burning lantern in his hand, and had requested them, in broken Arabic, to guide him to the entrance of a subterranean passage, that was believed to reach as far as Hammam, (a

high mountain, two leagues from Tunis,) for which he offered them a present: the wishes of the unknown were complied with. As soon as the stranger reached the opening, he took a *Um el Buja* (cameleon) out of his bosom, caressed it tenderly, and said something to it in an unknown language; then leaped down with his lantern, and hastened forwards into the obscure passage, while his guides remained without. The Bedouins added, that his light soon disappeared altogether, and they fancied that they heard a loud talking, in which a woman's voice was plainly to be distinguished: suddenly they heard a loud crash, and saw an old wall sink into the earth, whence arose a high-mounting cloud of dust. Upon this they hastened * * * * *

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*Postscript from the Titular Secret Society.*

Here we find a disagreeable break in the narrative, caused perhaps from the opening of the letter by the secret, but by no means titular, police. The accident happened, no doubt, in passing through the hands of some awkward tyro, who did not know how to patch it together again. In consequence, we remain in ignorance, not only of the precise end of our colleague, but also of the name of the interesting physician, to whom we are indebted for the above information, and who, doubtless, long waited in vain for his well-merited fee.

Unfortunately, we can no longer hesitate to believe that M. Semilasso is lost to the public, and has already spoken, not his last word but *one*, as he was presumptuous enough to say, but his very last. If he yet lives, it must be either with ——— spirits, or in some mysterious way in subterranean recesses,—Heaven knows in whose company: in either case, no

more is to be expected from him in the upper world. Our society loses in this melancholy event one of its most honoured members, one who afforded in every point of view the noblest expectations: notwithstanding his youth, relatively speaking, he had already reached the highest class of sages, which we, in our secret language, call the "Yellow Lodge," or ———; and which, under certain circumstances, qualifies for the highest offices in the state. We dare not speak plainer; but many honoured Yellows in our fatherland, now high in place and dignity, will know our meaning. To the initiated we add these signs for further information and direction:—

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THE END.

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